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SOLDIER



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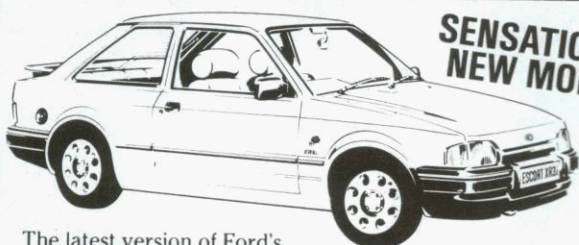
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FRONT COVER: Members of the 'Glorious Glosters' — Private Shawn Stone (with flute) and Pte Tony Rouse — in 1801 costume which they wear on the regiment's Salamanca Day.

BACK COVER: One of the FV 432/30s of the 'Glosters' in its unique urban livery in Berlin.
See pages 26-30 for stories on the 'Glosters'.
Both pictures by Paul Haley.

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SOLDIER

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JUNGLE PATROL



Less than three months after arriving "home" in Canterbury from five years in Germany, 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment were off to the jungles of Belize for a six-month tour of duty. SOLDIER has been there with them and will feature the battalion in its next issue.

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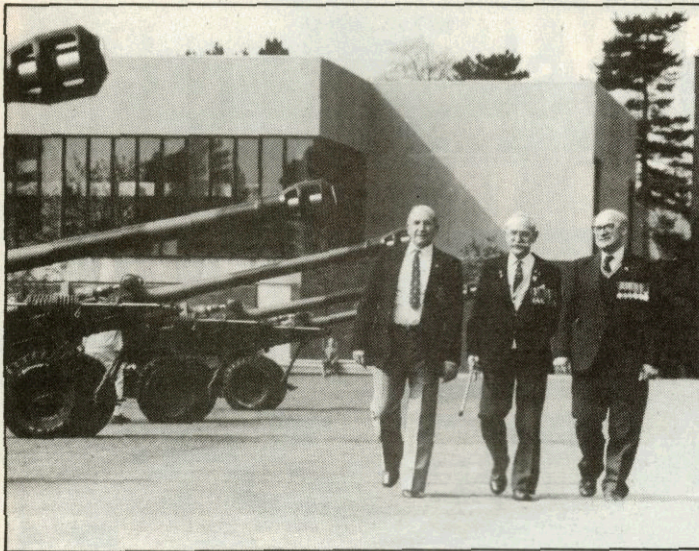
The superb fuel injected 626 is also available as a 4 door saloon or 5 door hatchback, and for enthusiasts who'd like to make their cars look even more distinctive, a special 'Aeropack' – including colour-keyed spoilers and alloy wheels – is available as an optional extra on all fuel injected models.

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Big Guns Stop the Shoppers



Jack Crawley, Dennis Huckle, Hugh Ingram; memories of the war

THE big guns of Territorial Army artillerymen based at Luton brought traffic to a standstill in Bedford town centre.

The men, vehicles and 105mm guns of 201 (Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) were exercising their right of freedom of entry to the town.

After inspecting the battery at Bedford Park, the Mayor of North Bedfordshire, Coun Brian Dilling-

ham, granted permission for it to parade through the town — a traditional right conferred on the battery's predecessors in 1963 — and 'took the salute' in Harpur Street, while morning shoppers looked on.

At a reception in the Howard Rooms, the Mayor praised the dedication of the 'volunteer yeomen', and the battery's commander, Major Alistair Scott, returned the compliment, congratulating the Mayor and town councillors on their own voluntary



Through the streets of Bedford; the Mayor takes the salute

work for the community.

Earlier, at Bedford Park, three veteran former members of the Bedfordshire Yeomanry, one of the battery's forerunners, carried out their own inspection of the guns.

Former battery sergeant major Jack Crawley (65) from Pavenham near Bedford, Captain Dennis Huckle (63) from Hitchin, and Gunner Hugh Ingram (71) from Luton, swapped reminiscences of the Second World War and their own days in action as they walked among the big guns drawn up for

inspection.

And a three-year-old, at the back to watch his father take part in the freedom parade, found plenty to admire in the ceremonial uniform and sword of Bombardier Ian Ramshaw, forming part of the guard of honour to welcome Coun Dillingham.

David Barrett-Jones, son of Gunner William Barrett-Jones from Luton, got a close-up view of Bombardier Ramshaw's sword as the Bombardier waited for the Mayor to arrive.

Gran rescues Op Raleigh sapper

A SOMERSET granny has contributed her savings to ensure that her soldier grandson, Sapper Nick Wildman, 21, does not have to pull out of Operation Raleigh.

With just five days before he was due to fly out to join members of Operation Raleigh's expedition in Darwen, Australia, Nick ran into sponsorship trouble and found himself £800 short of the £2,000

needed for the trip.

Everything was arranged when Nick left his unit, 26 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers at Iserlohn, Germany, but the next day when he stopped off in Guildford to pick up his sponsorship money he learned that his main sponsor had pulled out at the last moment.

Because of the Bank Holiday

stand-down all attempts to get help from Nick's unit were frustrated, but just as 3 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers in Hawley, Hants, were attempting to borrow the cash deficiency from regimental funds, Nick thought of his Supergran, Mrs C Worbouys, of Langport, and she solved the problem.

Now Nick, who obtained most

of his support by approaching SOLDIER advertisers and Guildford Round Table who gave him £600, is off to join other Operation Raleigh venturers, helping the aborigine community who live on two islands off the Darwin coast.

Expedition boss international explorer Colonel John Blashford-Snell was delighted when he heard of Nick's good fortunes: "I am writing immediately to thank Nick's grandmother personally," he said, "because it was a really Christian act on her part and I am extremely grateful to her for her incredible kindness and generosity."

"There are not many serving soldiers going out as Venturers like me," said Nick, "but I'm going out in that category because I was a civilian when I first applied to go on the expedition."

"Most of the military on Raleigh are 'directing staff', but as a venturer I will actually be taking part in the projects such as helping the aborigines with a number of construction tasks."

KIDNEY CASH

Twenty-five Kingsmen from the Anti-Tank Milan Platoon of the 5th/8th (TA) Bn have raised £1,500 for the Jonathan O'Rourke Kidney Appeal by running in the Helsby Marathon.

INSIDE THE ROCK

A TWO weeks' Marble Tor exercise for a composite Company group from Liverpool, Manchester and Warrington for the 5/8th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's Regiment ended with a special ceremony inside the rock at Gibraltar.

Helping the resident battalion, 1 Queen's, in a series of community tasks, the King's Company Commander, Major Keith Hayward, offered the help of his men in clearing and tidying up King's Lines deep within the rock itself. The task was completed by each of the platoons fixing the regi-

mental plaque alongside one from 2nd Battalion, The King's Regiment who were the occupants of the complex of caves, passages and OP positions within the Rock from 1941-43.

The platoons also visited Spain, enjoyed watersmanship and sea fishing, and took part in FIBUA training, small arms practice, keep fit, swimming and tours of the Rock.

A break from rangework at Europa Point. Top to bottom: Sgt Dave Forsyth, Lance Corporal Dougie Cooney, Kingsmen Frank Sheridan, Carl Murray, Allan Wright and Frank Lamb



OFF TO RAISE A MILLION

SIX WEEKS of special training with the Army are over at Bulford with final fitness assessments for three young paraplegics who are out to raise £1 million for spinal research.

They are Simon Barnes, Andy Haynes and Danny Ackroyd — not forgetting their mascot Dylan the dog — who have started out on The Great British Push. A 1,100-mile journey which started

out from John o'Groats on May 14 and finishes at Land's End on June 30.

All three young men have increased their strength and endurance during a six-week stint with the Army Physical Training Corps instructors.

Picture shows Dylan the dog leading off Danny, Simon and Andy under encouragement by Army personnel from Bulford during a training spin.



VILLAGE REMEMBERS A VC

A WEST COUNTRY village has honoured one of its famous, one of the first men to be awarded the Victoria Cross, by erecting a new headstone on his grave where previously there had been only a wooden cross.

Private George Strong is buried at Sherston Churchyard near Malmesbury. He was awarded the VC for a great act of gallantry in the Crimean War at Sevastopol in September 1855.

He had enlisted in the Coldstream Guards at 19 in November 1854 and the act that won him the VC and its presentation to him by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park was for saving the lives of his comrades by removing a live shell from their trenches.

Apart from danger to his own life had the shell exploded, his hands were badly burned.

Two years later he was presented at the first investiture parade on June 26, 1857, to receive his decoration.

George Strong served on with the 1st Battalion until November 1864 and settled in Sherston. Some of his direct descendants still live in Sherston; he died there in August 1888.

It is thought a wooden cross originally marked his grave. This disintegrated many years ago and the grave became unmarked. Funds have been raised by his old regiment, old comrades association and his family to provide a headstone and fitting tribute to a hero.

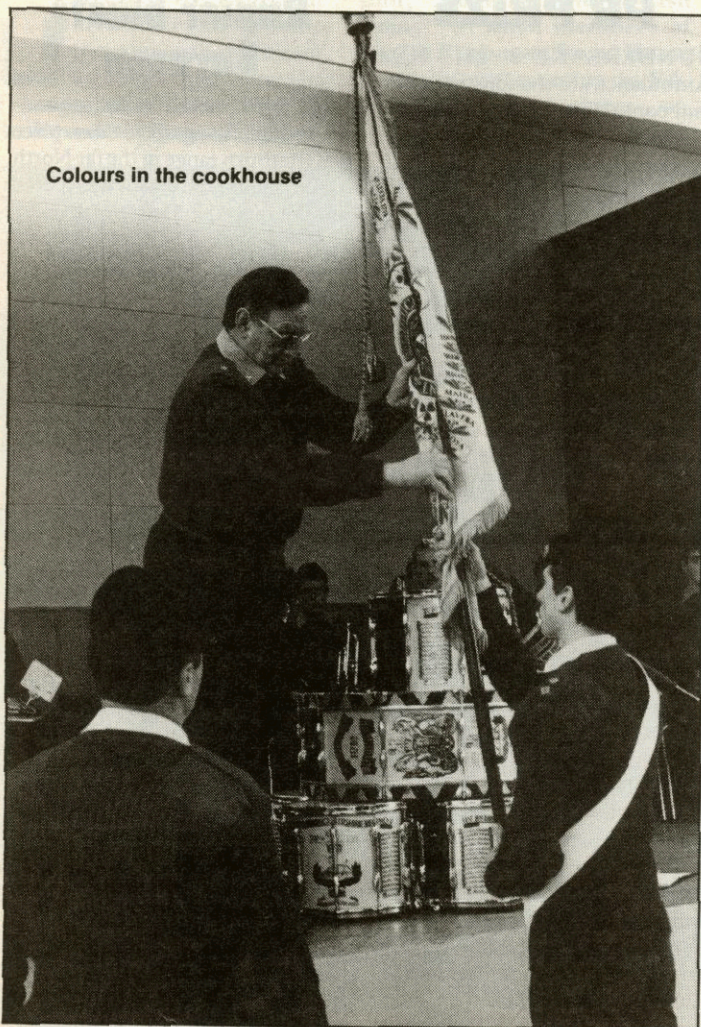
Champers for Sandra's Success



MRS Sandra Hughes, first successful student of the newly set up Stornoway Driving School to pass her test, had success marked with a trophy and a bottle of champagne presented by Lt Col David de G Bromhead.

The school is run by Lt Ken Draycott of the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales who is the Lemgo Station SSO, for the benefit of Service personnel and families living in the Lemgo and Detmold area.

COOKHOUSE-CUM-CHURCH



Colours in the cookhouse

THE JUNIOR Ranks Cookhouse at Wavell Barracks, Spandau, Berlin, doubled up as a church during a ceremony commemorating the Battle of the Imjin, by the Berlin resident 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The front-and-back badged 'Glorious Glosters' were laying up the Colours in the cookhouse with its capacity to take a battalion-sized strength because the nearby St Margaret's Church could not accommodate the occasion — it seats only 100 people.

The solemn event also honoured the memory of the late Lieutenant Colonel James Carne, VC, DSO, the regimental hero from the Korean War of 35 years ago. Ironically, he had died just days before the Berlin ceremony.

FORTY YEARS WITH BAOR

SIXTY-years old Frau Ursula Dann, who for the past eight years has held a key civilian post at Headquarters 4th Armoured Division, has been awarded a Commander-in-Chief's certificate of merit in recognition of her service to BAOR with whom she began work as a 20-year-old.

Frau Dann was accommodation

services and contracts clerk at Headquarters 4 Ordnance Battalion, Herford, responsible for the annual expenditure of some DM11 million in arranging contracts with local German firms and businesses for services ranging from rubbish disposal to coffin procurement and window cleaning as well as the disposal of waste and dangerous oils and chemicals.

Two instructors with the Training Team Brunei (TTB) have been presented with LS and GCMs by the Director of Army Training Major General Keith Spacie — in a clearing, deep in the heart of the jungle in Brunei.

Both soldiers enlisted the same day, were posted to the same unit and have always served together, they even have consecutive regimental numbers.

Colour Sergeant Balkrishna Gurung (21159412) enlisted on November 21 1969 the same day as Colour Sergeant Arjun Kumar Gurung (21159413). Both are in 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

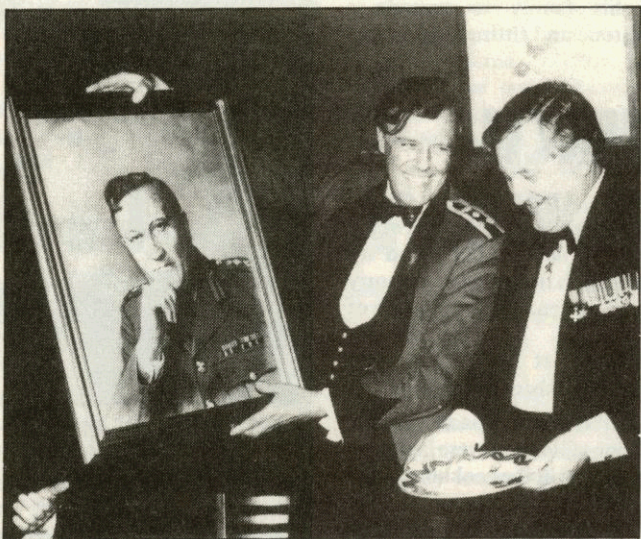


Major General Spacie with the recipients, Colour Sergeant Balkrishna Gurung (left) and Colour Sergeant Arjun Kumar Gurung

DRUMMER TO COLONEL

BRIGADIER John Howarth, Regimental Brigadier Royal Artillery makes a farewell portrait presentation to Colonel Frank Masters, former Honorary Colonel of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V).

Colonel Masters, who first joined the RAMC (T) in 1939 as a drummer, rose through every rank in the Army to colonel, and commanded 436 LAA Regt RA (TA) and the South Lancashire Territorials, before being appointed deputy commander, The Air Defence Group/23 Artillery Brigade. He was Honorary Colonel of 103 for 11 years until 1985.



WALL RUN HELPS HOSPITALS

SOME of the best long distance runners from the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment based in Berlin have run 850 miles to raise £4,500 towards two projects — an eye laser for Exeter Eye Infirmary and a cardiac pump for the Dorchester Hospital.

Organised by Colour Sergeant Ian Williams, Exercise Multi-Marathon took them round the divided city's infamous Wall in the British sector, and then from Helmstedt on the East/West German border across Europe, to Calais and then on to the West Country.

They had run round the Wall to compensate for running the 100

miles along the Corridor from Berlin to Helmstedt which, politically, was not possible.

Other clearances were obtained through West Germany, Belgium, Holland, and France. Police forces were informed. A ferry booked. Sponsorship obtained.

The undaunted dozen already had £3,000 pledged from within Berlin.

The runners were: Cpl Anthony Finch, Lance Cpls Martin Jerrard, Gavin Laws, Andrew Osborne, Bryan Scott; Privates Adrian Harris, Andrew Moreland, Mark Hale, Jeffrey Corbin, David Holloway, Peter Brailey and David Crofts.

DUKE WILL PRESENT COLOURS

THE century-old Cameron Barracks, Inverness, will next month for nearly a fortnight thrill again to the swagger of kilts and the sound of the old tunes of glory.

For the first time since its formation in 1971, the Highlands' own Territorial Army battalion, 2/51 Highland Volunteers, is to hold its annual camp north of the Highland Line.

Most of the battalion's time will be spent rehearsing for the grand finale on June 26 when the Duke of Edinburgh will present it with

new regimental Colours at a grand parade in Elgin's Cooper Park.

The last large-scale Territorial Army parade in the Highlands was, it is believed, held in 1966 by the 11th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders in Fort George, a few months before its final disbandment the following year.

And the last Colours parade in Elgin was held by the 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders Militia in 1906, two years before the formation of the Territorial Army.

PR PRIZE

SUNDERLAND'S 251 Field Ambulance are the tops in public and community relations.

Lieutenant General Sir John Akehurst, Commander UK Field Army and Inspector General Territorial Army presented the Fairclough Public Relations trophy to Lieutenant Colonel Ram Banerjee, Commanding Officer of 251 Field Ambulance at a ceremony at Durham.

The unit won the award for significant and consistent contribution to public and community relations during the year.

Runners up were 6th Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (HQ at Alnwick) and D Company 4th Bn Parachute Regiment with HQ at Stockton, Cleveland.

Rapier blasts Saracen

THE first Tracked Rapier ground-to-ground firings have taken place at Otterburn range in the far North of England. A direct hit was scored on the target, a Saracen APC.

The firing unit was a production Tracked Rapier operated by British soldiers and instrumented with an optical tracker boresight camera.

The detonation of the missile warhead blew the turret into the air and devastated the interior of the vehicle.

JSLO RETIRING

MAJOR General Mike Steele has said goodbye in Bonn to his colleagues from the Joint Services Liaison Organisation and the British Embassy. He is leaving after three years as Chief of JSLO and later this summer will retire from the Army following a career which has spanned 36 years.

The British Ambassador, Sir Julian Bullard, hosted a reception for the General, thanking him for his invaluable help to the Embassy.

PAINTINGS AS THANKS

AFTER this year's highly successful Wilton Arts and Crafts Exhibition held at the Officers' Mess, HQ UKLF, the society has thanked the mess by presenting it with three paintings.

The three watercolours of Salisbury Cathedral, painted by local artists Major (Ret'd) O'Conner Fenton, were presented to the President of the Mess Committee, Colonel Danny Shields, by Lady Janet Glover, Patron of the Society.

GUNNERS IN FREEDOM PARADE



Military men with a Freedom ceremony very much in mind

Flags and regimental souvenirs for the local school-children

THE ROYAL Regiment of Artillery has become the eleventh regiment or corps to receive the Freedom of the Borough of Rushmoor — it includes Alder-

shot, "home of the British Army" — when members of the 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, representing the RA, exercised their rights as Freemen.

The locally-based airborne gunners paraded first through Aldershot and then through neighbouring Farnborough, the other component of Rushmoor Borough. Also taking part were The King's

Troop RHA; three RHA batteries were involved in the parade: F (Sphinx), G (Mercer's Troop) and J (Bull's Troop).

OC of the parade was Lieutenant Colonel N W Richards, RHA.

Councillor Colin Balchin, the Mayor of Rushmoor, and Major General C G Cornock, the Director Royal Artillery, were received by a General Salute, and the Mayor later presented the scroll and its silver casket container to General Cornock.

The parade marched through Aldershot in traditional freedom manner, with bands playing, drums beating, bayonets fixed and guns on parade.

The Royal Artillery Band later gave a concert in the civic area under its Director, Major F A Renton, RA.

The other ten military regiments and corps enjoying Freedom status are The Corps of Royal Engineers, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, The Parachute Regiment, The Army Medical Services (The Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Dental Corps and The Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps), The Army Physical Training Corps, The Army Catering Corps, and The Corps of the Royal Military Police.

The Mayor inspects 7 RHA representing the Roval Regiment of Artillery



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
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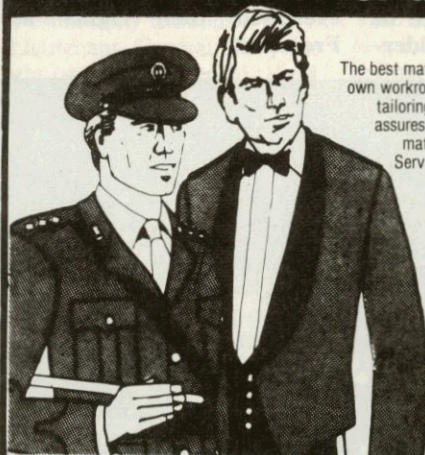
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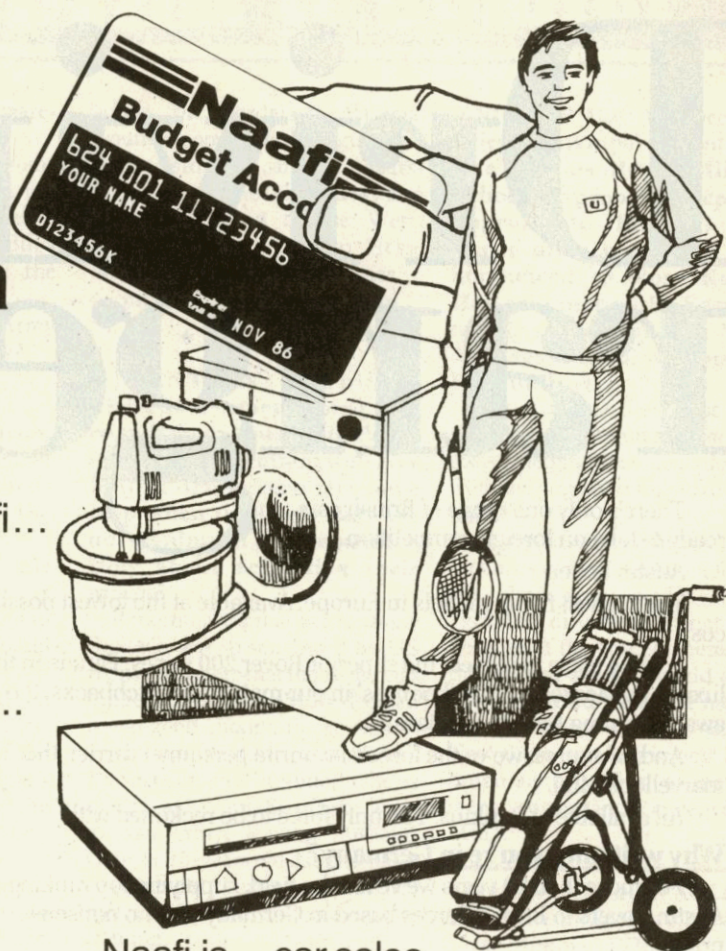
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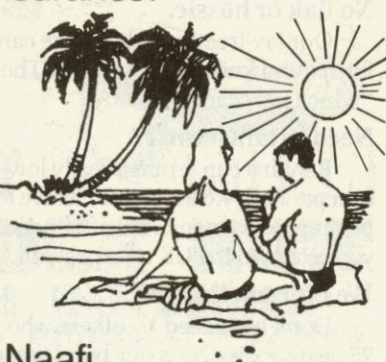
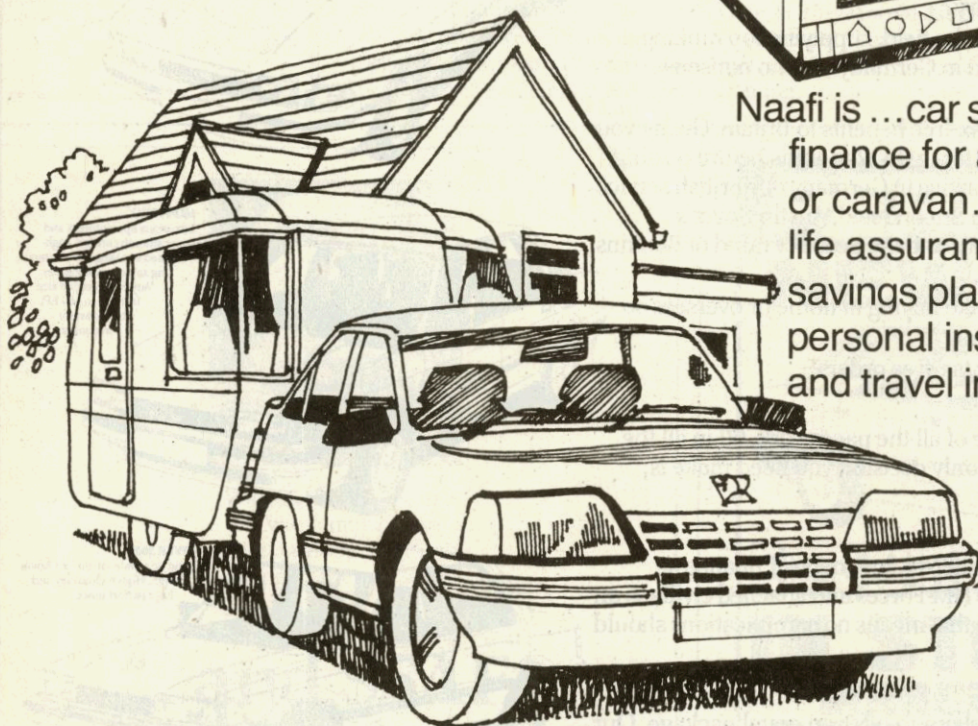
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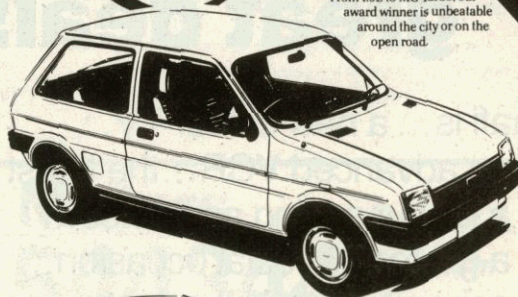
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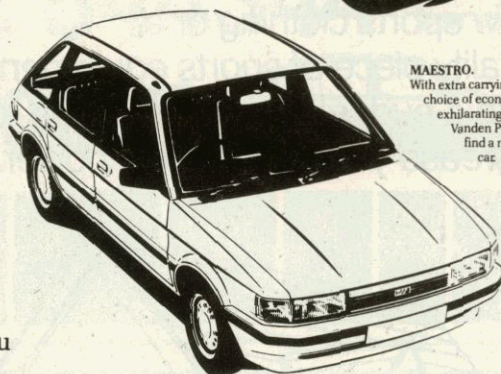


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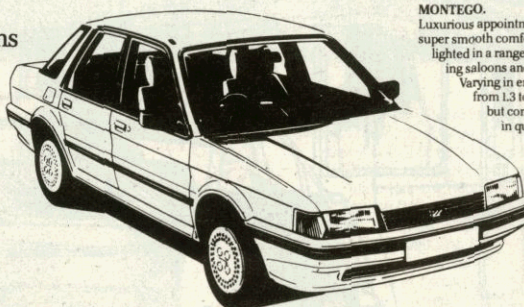
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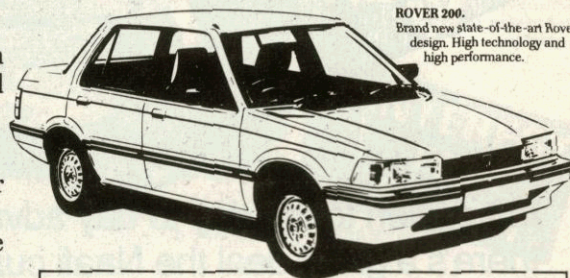
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WE'VE heard of pigs being used as drugs sniffers by the German police. Now we have geese being used as guards!

The idea comes from the American Army in West Germany who are to buy 900 geese to guard 30 of their communications and air defence installations.

Whereas human sentries go about their tasks as quietly as possible, the great value of geese is the noise they make. "When alarmed, they are supposed to honk, hiss, flap their wings and run like crazy, causing a disturbance and alerting the nearest human sentinel," a US Army spokesman is quoted as saying.

They won't replace soldiers, but they could allow a reduction in the size of patrols.

The goose guard idea is not entirely new. History has it that they saved Rome from an attack by the Gauls in 390 BC, and a distillery in Scotland has been

using them to guard their warehouses for nearly 30 years.

Geese obviously have some advantages over human sentries. They are cheaper to feed, easier to hose, and easier to recruit. But a marauding fox might give the system a bit of a fright.

Could it be that the British Army will have a gander at the idea?

★ ★ ★

POTENTIAL escapers from East to West in Europe have much more than geese guards to worry about — but still the escapes take place.

These days they make little news, even in the West, but the fact that people are still willing to risk their lives to escape should not be forgotten.

SOLDIER has just had an editorial team in Berlin and their reports begin in this issue of the magazine with more in a fortnight's time. Inevitably, the Wall and the Wire figure prominently in their stories and photographs.

While they were there, it was reported locally that a 19-years-old East German soldier had escaped

across the border in Bavaria, wounding one of his colleagues who tried to stop him, and a 23-years-old private in the GDR Army also successfully fled to the West, crossing the border into Hesse while on regular service duties.

Such is the price of freedom.

★ ★ ★

ATTENTION recruiters! There's a story going the rounds from Penn Hills, Pennsylvania which might well give British Army recruiters some help when the likely lads are not signing on too frequently. How about recruiting their mums?

Reports have it that one Anthony Baldwin was so convinced by US Army recruiters that the Army was the good life that his Mum decided it was good enough for her too.

"It sounded like the best offer I've had in my lifetime," she is quoted as saying. So off she went to the Army, leaving husband George, 16-years old daughter and 14-years old younger son with her mother while she undergoes basic training.

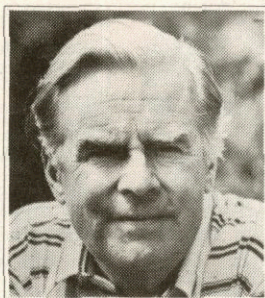
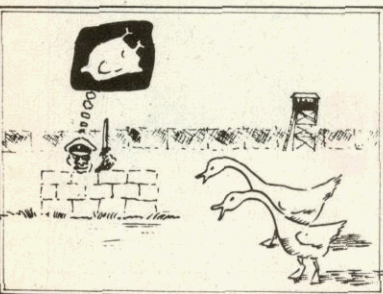
KNELLER Hall has been re-prieved — temporarily at least. The famous Royal Military School was probably preparing appropriate funeral type music after plans had been announced to close Kneller Hall and merge the Services' music schools at the Royal Marines' School of Music at Deal in Kent.

Not everyone thought it was a good idea, particularly when the cost of merging the schools doubled from the original estimate of £10.6 million.

The all-party Commons public accounts committee had a look at the plans and decided it was "gravely disquieted", not least because of the cost. It seems that the merged schools would over a 15-year period have cost more to run than three separate schools. Now there is to be a review of the proposals by a firm of management consultants engaged by MoD.

The views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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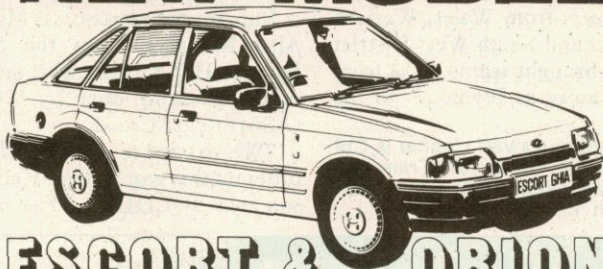
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TOUGH WEEKEND FOR REME TERRIERS

FLY, swim, wrestle in mud, paddle and shoot — that was what Exercise Western Approaches was all about. “You must be in a recovery unit to get over a weekend like this” quipped one Welsh volunteer from Prestatyn as he took a rest after the ‘boat race’ on Swynnerton’s river.

It was one of the tests in Western Approaches, the joint annual weekend exercise for REME volunteers from Wales, Western District and South West District which brought teams of 12 from as far away as Plymouth to the

huge training areas just off the M6 in Staffordshire.

Running the exercise was Major Alex Kempson from the SW District HQ REME, with much of the planning done by WO 1 (ASM) Roger Croad.

“We’ve tried to make it a little different this year” Major Kempson told SOLDIER. “The only

thing that is the same is the assault course; that is something that you can’t really do backwards.”

Commander (Maint) SW District Colonel Geoffrey Simpson and his SO 1 (V) Lt Col Doug Hardie had received magnificent support for the exercise, with 16 teams of 12 entering the competition, almost a quarter of the REME strength in the three Districts.

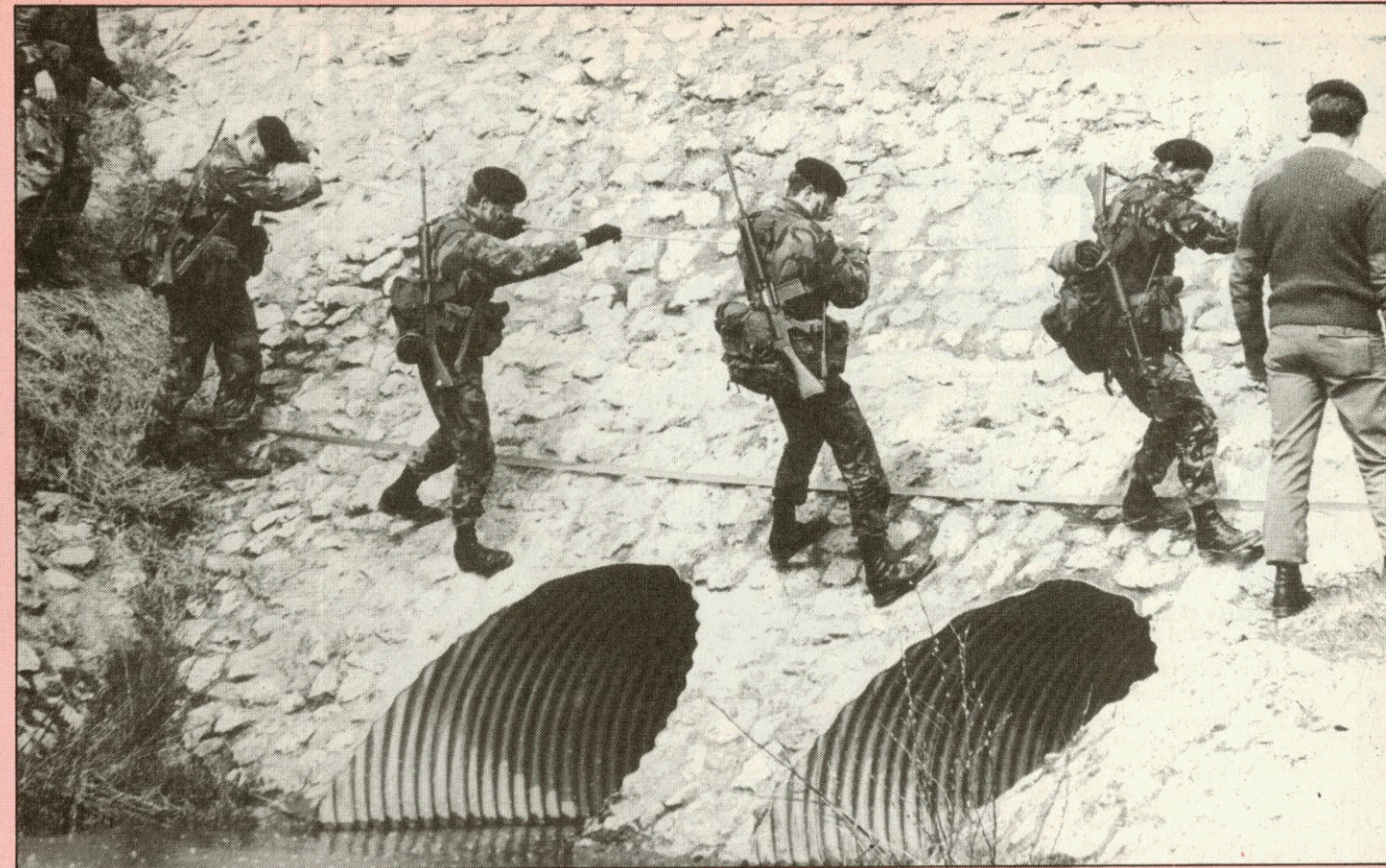
There to see the fun and the skills were DGEME, Major General John Boyne; Brigadier Rex Stubbington, Commander REME (TA); Brigadier C J Lee, Com-

Delicate manoeuvre for 119 Recovery Company. Despite good initial progress, they ran out of time

mander 160 Infantry Brigade; Colonel Dennis Filer, Honorary Colonel REME (V) for the three districts; and Colonel Phil Fitzgerald, lately promoted Brevet Colonel after his tour as SO 1 (V).

Very much involved too was Lord Stafford, whose ancestral home almost overlooks the training area and who allowed access to

Officer Cadet Iian Francis, reading politics at Birmingham Polytechnic tackles an engine fault



woodland areas outside the boundaries of the camp for the patrol exercises.

Much in evidence too were members of newly raised 126 Reclamation Company from Coventry, almost tripled in strength in the recent enhancements.

Each of the 16 teams had to establish a secure base within the area with all round defence. Then from first light they were called forward for the series of tests.

There was a boat race in assault craft beginning with a ‘launch’, a frantic paddle along the river (with

Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers Workshop three lengths ahead of 126 Reclamation Company

a safety boat manned by Sappers from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers), and when safely round the ‘buoy’ an arm wrenching 400 metres carry back to the start.

There was the assault course and naturally some mind boggling recovery tasks. “Just recover that Abbot, and while you are at it there’s a ten-tonner, full of unstable explosives to move. And by the way, expect enemy contact in the next 50 minutes”.

Balancing over the lake on telegraph poles and climbing round the ‘haunted and booby trapped house’ tested every member of the teams. Then a navigation exercise in a Lynx helicopter flown by Sgt Bill Cross of 656 Sqn AAC followed by a patrol through the

woods. And through the night 23 SAS mounted attacks on each defensive perimeter just to keep the volunteers alert.

The ‘Invertron’ map reading trainer provided a high tech way to check map reading abilities with 12 projectors giving a wide screen. Almost as complex was the recognition stand, provided by the Western District Specialist Training Team from Shrewsbury, with their Miltra models realistically deployed by WO 1 Dan Powell of the Queen’s Own Mercian Yeomanry and recognised through binoculars at 20 yards from sand-bagged OPs.

“If the TA volunteer is twice a citizen, then the REME can claim that they are three times,” argued

Scramble along the rock face for 119 Recovery Company on their way to their command task

Colonel Phil Fitzgerald who took part in the first Western Approaches in 1979 when it was a North West/Wales competition. “We have to be skilled tradesmen, then we have to support our affiliated unit and need all the soldiering skills too so that we can survive.

“Sometimes, it is possible that REME, working round the clock to keep vital equipment going, can be forgotten, but we see this exercise as a great way to pull together the Corps skills plus leadership and general military skills in a memorable way.”



BAOR MORTAR MEN MUSTER

PRACTICE makes perfect is a claim that BAOR's firers have no intention of quibbling about. And for good reason too.

They have distinguished themselves by repeatedly making that maxim come true on the tricky mortar and heavy weapons training range at Munsterlager, West Germany, where they were taking part in a live-firing exercise called Base Plate 11 — the 1st British Corps Mortar Concentration for 1986.

The exercise, which made its first appearance two years ago, has carved a niche in Rhine Army's packed training programme, with a reputation among frontline infantry units as a great experience-earner.

Base Plate's organisers this year were 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers.

The Concentration's Officer Commanding, Major Alan Rutherford put the operation into perspective: "The aim given to me by Brigadier Infantry HQ 1(BR) Corps was to practice and assess mortar platoons in their operational role. It involved most of the mortar platoons in Germany including those stationed in Berlin. Only a few were unable to fire because of other essential commitments.

"When platoons arrived they were given an introductory brief before undergoing a series of elementary drills, fire control tests and inspections during the weekend.

"Troops took part in battle exercises conducted by expert staff on attachment here from Support Weapons Wing, Mortar Division at Netheravon, and this was

NBC suited troops of 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales log vital details in their command post during a battle exercise

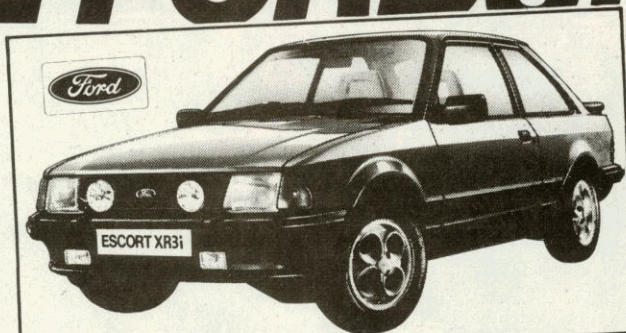
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Manning the mortar safety net at a command post (left to right) Sergeants Paul Ferguson (R Irish), Stephen Smith (Glosters) and Paul Westcott (Glosters)



Base Plate 11's RSM, WO1 Joseph Moore, R Irish

followed by the final element, Exercise Gaelic Vengeance, written to enable the directing staff to assess critically the tactical performance of platoons."

There were difficulties to overcome. Significantly, it was held on a Bundeswehr technical artillery range used continuously by other NATO forces throughout the year.

"That can create some planning, training and administrative problems as well as some restrictions dictated by tight safety regulations which means, for example, firing may only take place from fixed mortar lines. But despite these limitations and with safety para-

mount in everybody's mind we achieved our goal as realistically as possible," said Maj Rutherford.

Controlling range safety was 1 R Irish's Mortar Officer, Captain Bill Maxwell.

"With five weeks of firing we had different safety platoons each week, so literally myself and my platoon were the continuity in providing on-site back-up for safety," he said.

"Basically, safety on the range involves taking precautionary measures on the mortar lines and at the observation posts of the mortar fire controllers (MFCs).

"On the lines, for example, we have to ensure that the barrel and rounds are fired at the correct charge, elevation and bearing and this is done by highly trained safety supervisors who constantly check

that all the paths controlled from the MFCs are strictly recorded and fed into the operator's pocket-sized mortar fire data computer which itself has up-to-the-minute safety information built into it.

"That's what I call first line safety, and it's a procedure backed up when fire data is issued to the mortars, and again supervisors ensure it is taken down and applied correctly."

Capt Maxwell spelled out the need for a second tier of safety controllers in the shape of Observation Post Safety Officers.

"They carefully watch the fall of each shot, listen in to orders, view the arcs and see that all rounds fall as directed and then report back to me complete with shooting logs detailing all fire missions," he said. "It's only by adhering to such

strict measures and by keeping in touch with the German authorities who have overriding authority for Munsterlager, that we can begin to establish the full value from the exercise."

Creating maximum training opportunities for the mortar platoons was the job of Capt Nigel Jones, Concentration Training Officer, coordinating the platoons' weekend activities when they faced a series of preliminary tests, and also coordinating the final part-three shoot, Gaelic Vengeance.

One of the advantages of Base Plate 11, especially for the Directing Staff was that no two weeks were the same. "We had mechanised platoons one week followed by say, air-portable the next, equipped with one-tonners as opposed to 432s, adding immense variety to our schedules," said Capt Jones.

Corporal Glen Cordner takes on the role of command vehicle sergeant to keep one of Baseplate 11's complex charts updated





POSTED NORTH — AFTER 47 YEARS

POSTING notices today are individual affairs. Not so, 47 years ago when, for instance, the Royal Corps of Signals was arranging them ... by the thousand!

Thousands of signallers would be sent to worldwide theatres of operation and those theatres would allocate the men to their respective units.

An era of such wartime nostalgia ends shortly at Reading at an early Victorian mansion surrounded by 1939 huts when the Royal Signals Manning and Records Office moves into new premises.

New premises called Kentigon House, a £21 million development in Glasgow where 1,400 Ministry of Defence employees are being collocated.

Sharing spacious accommo-

dation on the third floor along with the Signals Manning and Records Office will be the Royal Engineers from Brighton and the RCT from Hastings. Also moving north of the border will be the Brighton

Regimental Pay Office.

Thus ends an association with the Royal Signals at Caversham, Reading, with wartime posting notices going out to a Corps then numbering 150,000 (today's Army is 162,000). The Regular Royal Corps of Signals of today numbers about 12,000 plus 4,000 TA signallers and another 13,000 reservists on call.

The staff, mainly employed in the Reading area, are being replaced gradually by Glaswegians, many of whom have sallied south on detached duty before moving

Above: Balmore House. From Victorian mansion to multi-million pound Glasgow offices

northwards again in three months' time.

Going with them will be the four military personnel heading up the organisation, comprising three officers and a warrant officer.

The move has also meant a lowering in the age of most of the civil servants. The ages of the Reading staff were 50-plus; those of the Glaswegians from school-leavers upwards.

As Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Gallyer, Royal Signals (retired), the SO 2 Co-ord said: "The whole character of the staff is changing. I live in Henley but I shall be going, too. To mark the passing we are holding a party on June 13 with the aim of inviting as many as possible of those who have worked here since 1939. There are some 600 names on the list but we expect, perhaps, to attract about 200 who may still be alive and living in the area."

He added: "The Officer Commanding, Colonel David Miller has visited Kentigon House and he tells me that he has never seen a Ministry of Defence building so well equipped.

Footnote: The name 'Kentigon' is the birth name of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow.

Mrs Jose Robinson (right), at Caversham for 35 years; Miss Clare Moren from Glasgow, at Caversham seven months





ALTHOUGH shortages of officers in a few areas of the Services are causing concern, recruiting is generally satisfactory and there is no evidence that Service personnel are leaving because they consider their pay to be too low, says the MoD's Statement on the Defence Estimates for 1986.

The document takes a look at the advantages and disadvantages which can lead to recruitment and retention of the Serviceman and woman.

This is how the Ministry sees



THE SERVICE LIFE

MANNING an all-volunteer force involves facing difficult challenges of recruitment and retention. The Services need to recruit some 30,000 men and women every year. A considerable amount of money and effort must be spent on convincing potential recruits that there is a worthwhile and fulfilling career awaiting them and on retaining them when once they have been trained.

Individuals' reasons for joining and remaining in the Services are many and varied; they include duty, comradeship, learning a trade, responsibility, travel, sport and adventure.

The opportunities are substantial; the number of branches, trades and employment groups on offer to the potential recruit runs into many hundreds.

The RAF alone offers 15 branches for officer entrants and 143 different trades for airmen, who may be eligible for some 3,000 trade qualification annotations and many recognised civilian qualifications such as Higher National Diploma or City and Guilds.

Such training benefits not only the Services but ultimately the national pool of skills, when the Serviceman returns to civilian life.

Responsibilities can be heavy. A junior Army NCO could find himself in charge of an infantry section on patrol in Northern Ireland; a RAF flying officer could be at the controls of a Tornado aircraft; while a naval lieutenant might be the navigating officer of a £200 million nuclear submarine. All this before any of them reached the age of 30.

Although the opportunities for Service overseas have reduced in recent years, there is still considerable scope available for travel.

For adventurous training alone some 600 overseas expeditions were sponsored to 62 countries in 1984-85, in such diverse environments as Antarctica, the Sahara and the Himalayas.

Inevitably, some recruits will suffer from disappointed expectations. Others may not have fully appreciated the disadvantages that go with Service life, which can become especially apparent as personal circumstances change.

The attraction of foreign postings, or extended sea-time, that appealed to the single Serviceman, may fade once he has a wife and family and is faced with long periods of separation, the disruption of home life, and interruptions to his children's education.

The Service commitment requires a very high standard of personal discipline, and this leads to constraints on an individual's freedom.

The Serviceman is not able to seek alternative employment other than at the end of his engagement or, if he wishes to leave earlier, either by giving a long period of notice or buying his release; he is liable to duty 24 hours a day and seven days a week and has no right to claim overtime; he must be ready to react as promptly and rapidly as NATO or national preparedness criteria require; he needs to be continuously vigilant, for example, against terrorist threats; and, above all, he must be trained and prepared to fight if necessary.

In all, while there are many opportunities and advantages to Service life in the 1980s, there are also considerable pressures on the individual and his family.

Because of the particular circumstances of Service life, a high priority is attached to ensuring that Servicemen and women receive a fair rate of pay for the work they

do.

The concept of a 'military salary', introduced in 1970, enabled all Service personnel to receive pay related to that for comparable civilian jobs. Also implicit in the concept was that a fair price should be paid by Servicemen and women for their food and accommodation.

As there is no directly analogous civilian occupation, a process of detailed job evaluation has been adopted.

This is undertaken by a joint Service team on behalf of the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body. In carrying out its evaluations, the Review Body recognises that the Service life has certain disadvantages when compared with any civilian occupation, hence the 'X' factor, currently 10 per cent for Servicemen and seven-and-a-half per cent for women.

The Government has accepted in full every recommendation of the Review Body since 1980.

Pay is probably the most important single element in the range of conditions of service, but other aspects also count a great deal to the individual.

Various allowances and other benefits are therefore aimed at overcoming the particular difficulties posed by Service life, and can be of significant value. For example Local Overseas Allowances compensate for extra costs of living abroad; all Service personnel receive free medical and dental treatment; all Service personnel are entitled to certain leave travel at public expense; and married Servicemen with children at boarding school are eligible for

an allowance to assist with school fees.

The total cost of Service allowances, including those benefits, amounted to more than £600 million in 1984-85.

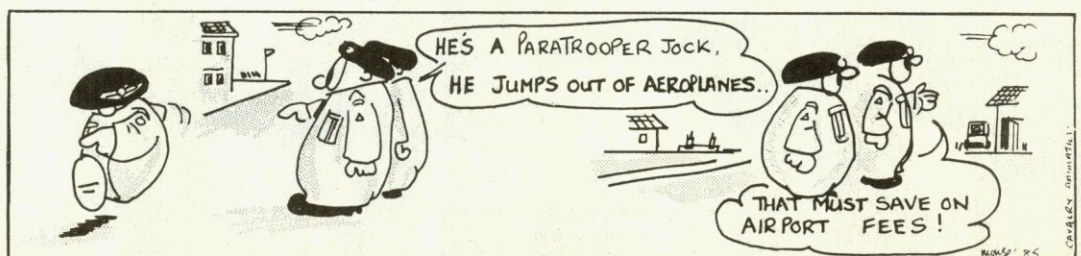
All conditions of service are kept under close review, and improvements recently made have included new family visits schemes for those serving in Northern Ireland and the Scottish islands; Service parents no longer contribute up to three per cent of their salary towards the cost of holiday visits by children at boarding school in the United Kingdom; and the scheme to enable Service personnel to buy surplus married quarters in England and Wales at a substantial discount is now being extended to the whole of the United Kingdom, on the basis of freehold rather than leasehold.

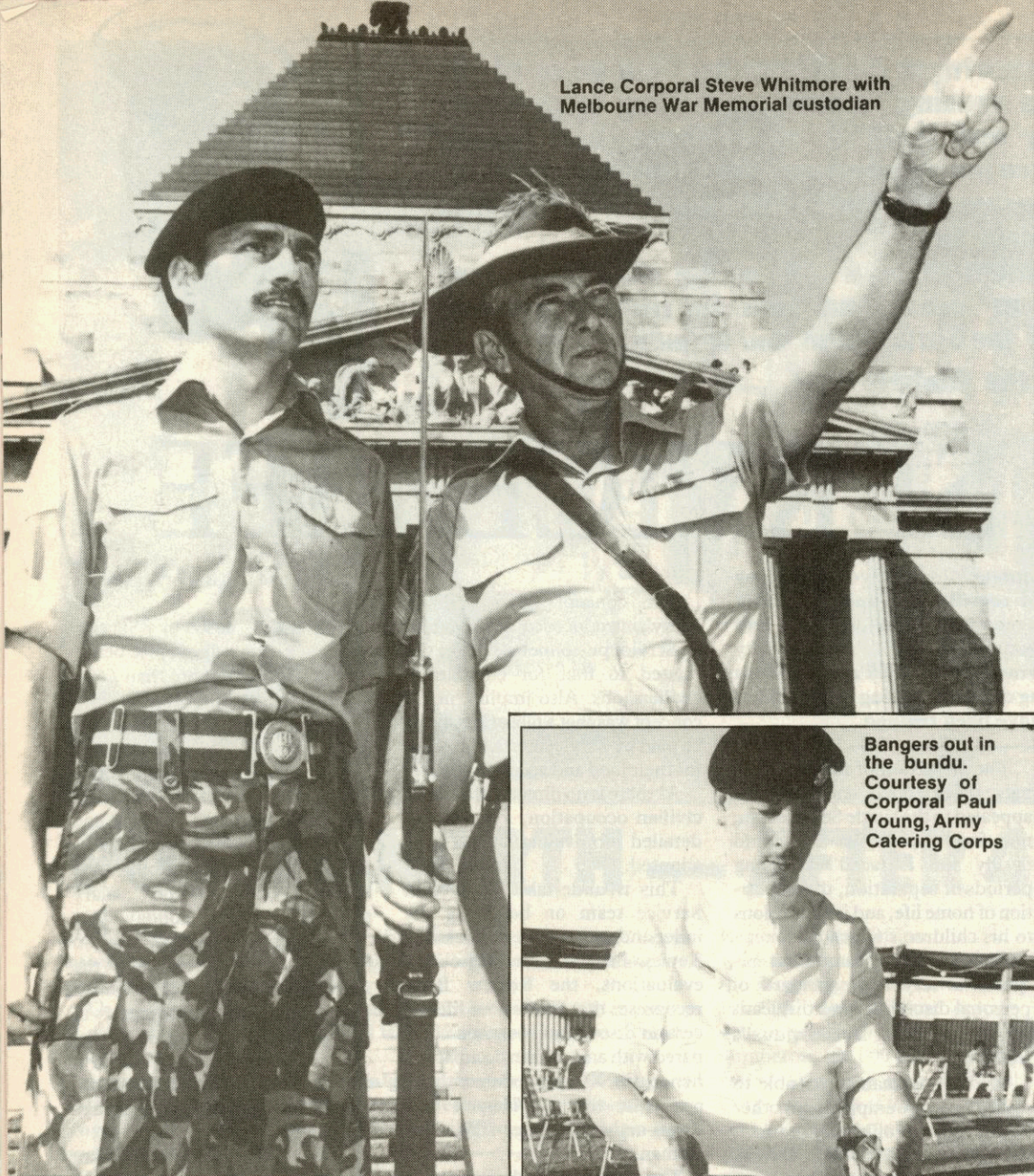
The report concludes that Servicemen and women must be offered interesting, challenging and rewarding careers, with the prospects of advancement and the ability to employ their talents to the full.

"They must receive a fair rate of pay for the work they do, and conditions of service appropriate to their special circumstances.

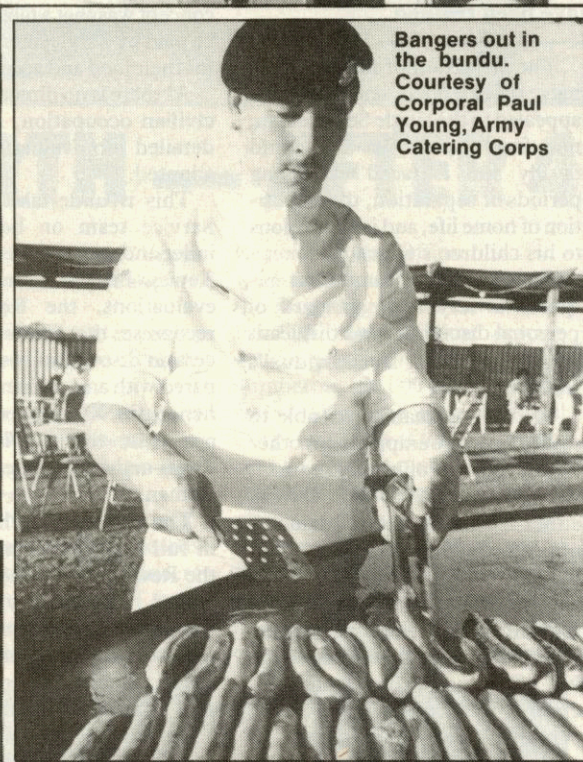
"The very nature of a Service career entails duties and obligations not found in civilian life.

"Where operational considerations are involved, the penalties cannot be easily ameliorated, but the aim is to combine fair pay and conditions so as to ensure that the Armed Forces retain the fully-trained and well-motivated personnel who are vital to the maintenance of Britain's defence."





Lance Corporal Steve Whitmore with Melbourne War Memorial custodian



Bangers out in the bundu. Courtesy of Corporal Paul Young, Army Catering Corps



Staff Sgt Alan Rankin, REME, pals up with a marsupial



BACK FROM THE MEETING PLACE OF WINDS

Leopard, with an Aussie pointing the way

THE 'SKINS' are back from Australia and a place called Puckapunyal, Victoria. Leopards and kangaroos featured heavily on their five-week training programme.

Leopards, the Mark 1 variety of tank, and an estimated 15,000 kangaroos hopping around the host nation's training area.

In all, 120 men from the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards based at Tidworth had headed to the Antipodes on Exercise Southern Cross while a like number of 'Diggers' visited balmy Wiltshire on a reciprocal exercise, 'Northern Star'.

Training aims were quickly achieved. As 'B' Squadron Leader, Major Spencer Gammond put it, "a meaningful contact between the British and the Australian Armoured Corps."

And so it was. Conversion training from the ways of Chieftain to the ways of the Leopard 1 (though the 'Skins' had prior experience on the German-built

type five years ago while carrying out a similar exercise 'down under'.

Field training and open range firing followed. Then maintenance and post-exercise servicing.

The conversion training centred not only on the Leopard but also the American-built M.113 armoured personnel carrier.

When R and R finally arrived the 'Skins' travelled as far as Sydney and Adelaide, the latter the home of their affiliated regiment the 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles.

And then it was back to Puckapunyal. The word, apparently, is aboriginal and means "meeting place of the winds". It lived up to its name according to local 'B' squadron scribes.

Day temperatures soared to 39 degrees for the fair-skinned visitors. Kangaroos there were, and a fair sprinkling of inquisitive emus, the latter foraging for food.

Troop and Troop/Platoon training was carried out with 'D' Company, 8/9th Royal Australian Regiment. The exercise culminated with a day of live firing, the British 'tankies' showing they shoot

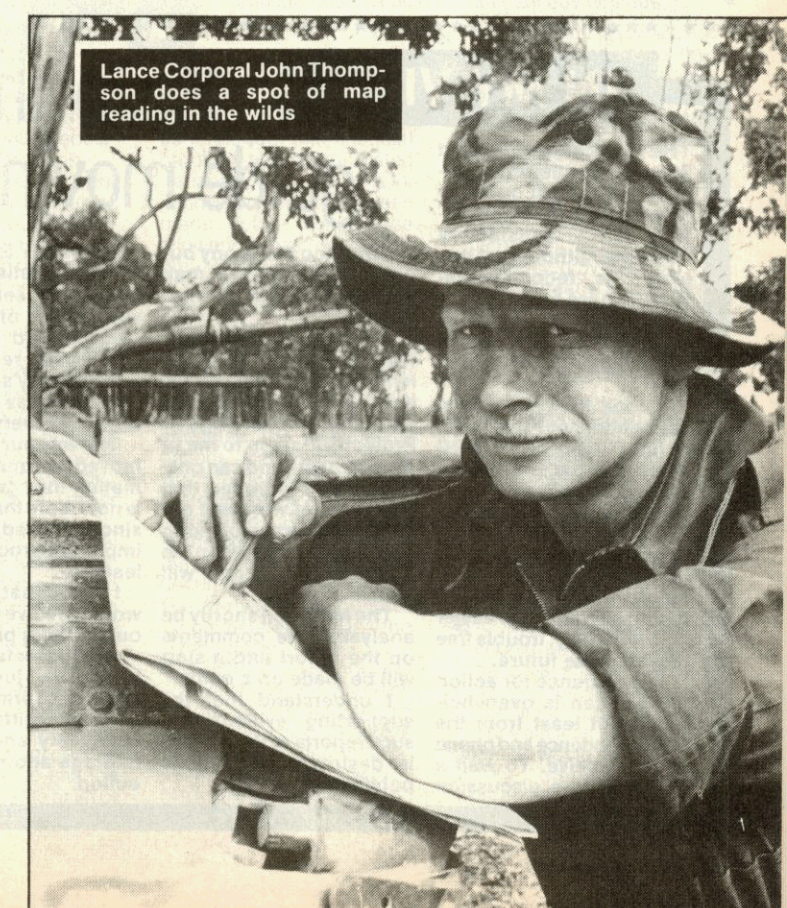
as well on the host tank as on their own.

No exchange training visit is complete without adventurous training. The 'Skins' went for theirs at Merrijig in the Northern Ranges of Victoria and included a package of hill-walking, canoeing, abseiling and horse riding.

Major Gammond said at the close of the exercise: "The 1st Armoured Regiment were wonderful hosts."

But the visit was not quite over ... yet.

The final phase saw an RAAF Hercules trip to Brisbane where the 'Skins' spent an "unforgettable week" in Queensland. Some even headed north to the Barrier Reef, others to the rain forests. The majority just lounged on the white beaches of the Gold Coast or "body watched" at the aptly named Surfers' Paradise.



Lance Corporal John Thompson does a spot of map reading in the wilds

Pictures:
Rick MacDonald

How to appeal
against a decision made by a social security office or unemployment benefit office.

Fight for your unemployment pay

BEFORE going to Germany Mrs B, Mrs C and Mrs G all had jobs. Now they are out of work and applied to the DHSS for unemployment pay. They were refused, so they appealed.

Because they are in Germany and were unable to attend the hearing at Guildford, I went along to represent them at the tribunal which would decide whether or not to overturn the decision of the adjudicating officer.

In the event, one of the appellants was successful; one case was adjourned, the other going to a higher authority.

It was a question of proving to the tribunal that they did not leave their jobs voluntarily, that they left with just cause and were available for full or part-time work until leaving the UK.

Not an easy task for an unqualified representative such as myself when trying to define a "just cause" with little supporting evidence.

For appealing wives, success means three months unemployment back pay. This is worth more than £300.

Until recently, leaving a job without "just cause" meant waiting six weeks before being eligible for unemployment benefit. The government now plan to more than double that waiting time to 13 weeks.

There are so many obstacles facing a Service wife overseas who decides to appeal against the adjudicating officer's decision.

For example: only ten days' notice of the hearing is given; no advice such as

stances beyond their control. I cannot attend all the appeals that come my way — there are lots — and I am not qualified to do so. I try only to answer questions put by the tribunal members.

These cases need expert help and guidance if unemployed wives are to have hope of winning an appeal.

A recent case in Bristol saw the Citizen's Advice Bureau helping me and the case was won. But this is not true every time since information forwarded by appellants is often incomplete and incorrect.

But despite all the hurdles I advise everyone who considers she has a case to appeal — the form at top left tells you how — even though until professional help and advice is forthcoming the Service wife will be disadvantaged.

It seems perverse that wives of American servicemen have available documents and information to help them explain the reasons why they left a job.

Why can't the wives of British Servicemen have similar help.

YOU WRITE ...

Trying to lick the NI stamp system

I LEFT England in January 1985 to accompany my husband to Hong Kong for three years with the Government.

I had previously been in full-time employment for more than six years.

I return to England in January 1988 and would like to know if my benefits will be altered due to my not paying National Insurance for three years.

Would I benefit from paying some type of stamp while abroad? — Mrs J, Hong Kong.

Unfortunately you lose all rights to unemployment benefit for a year from January 1985, unless you were receiving unemployment pay before leaving the UK.

In addition you lose the

right to NI credits unless you are covered by Home Responsibilities Protection, which means having children of school age.

Your total loss for one year from January 1985 is £30.45 a week unemployment benefit and NI credits.

On top of this you will have to pay Class Three voluntary contributions for three years at £3.65 a week, a total of £569.

These payments will keep your State pension intact, but you will not be able to claim sickness benefit, maternity allowance or unemployment benefit on your return.

DHSS leaflets are available at your BFPO: forms NI 43 (October '85) and NI 208 for voluntary contributions; form NI 48 (October '85) for unpaid and late paid NI contributions.

IN MY VIEW

Keep the guide moving

THE publication of Project 305 as a "discussion document" is at least one step towards what will hopefully be a satisfactory outcome, although at this stage its recommendations to ease family stress when leaving home on posting are not totally acceptable to the sponsors.

It took five years from conception for Project 305 to land finally on a MOD desk towards the end of last year when it was distributed for comment.

To my mind the content of this document shows that there is the need for a guide. It is essential if families are to have easier and, hopefully, trouble free moves in the future.

The evidence for action to be taken is overwhelming, not least from the correspondence and phone calls I receive. To wait a period before discussion

will prolong the agony but on the other hand it may add some important contributions.

The Project was undertaken to probe the problems faced by families and its 'knock on effect' on manning. The findings in Project 305 seem to me to be irrefutable and can only but help. It is hoped that five years of work will not be wasted and before long this area of worry when the posting order comes will be alleviated.

The MOD will shortly be analysing the comments on the report and a start will be made on a guide.

I understand that the supporting evidence of such reports as Project 305 is destroyed soon after publication.

When the Services are short of statistical information, it seems a waste when much of it could be incorporated into other reports and reviews.

With today's technology it should pose no problem to record every word.

The way our families are moved around the information they get is poor. It is now more than ten years since I started battling for improved procedures and leaflets.

I hoped that Project 305 would resolve many of the outstanding problems.

A guide for family moves is needed. I just hope that those who form the discussion committee will unreservedly endorse 305's findings and recommend action.

CLOSE on 9,500 Service families move each year between the UK and other locations.

Eighty per cent of the moves involve BAOR. Some are regimental, others individual.

But regardless of which it is, the act of moving home is a big upheaval for everyone concerned.

Of course, moving around on posting is all part of Army life, but that doesn't make it any easier for soldiers' families. For them it's like a merry-go-round without laughs. It's a glum business.

So five years ago, to find out what was wrong with the system, a survey was set up by the then Adjutant General to probe the difficulties faced by the Army's ever-mobile families.

He was encouraged in this by a syndicate study at the Staff College, Camberley, called *Turbulence in the Army*.

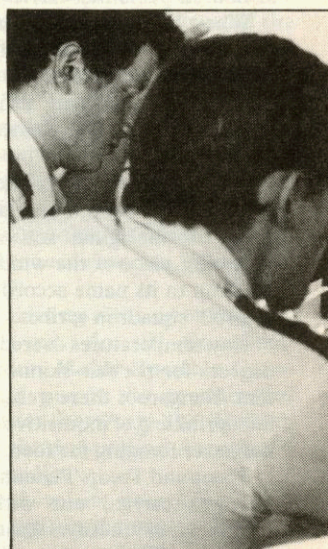
This indicated the disruptive effects frequent family and individual moves contribute to manning difficulties.

I followed this up with a brief and the Army Management Services started Project 305 with 5,000 families

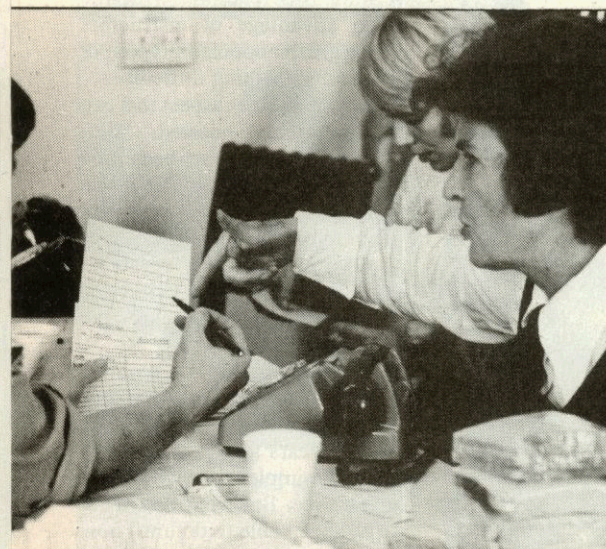
being asked to complete a questionnaire.

More than 2,600 responded, answering questions on accommodation, storage and baggage, moving, medical matters, money, employment, education and social topics.

Some interesting facts emerged; nearly half of the movers travelled by Service aircraft, a fifth were unaccompanied while moving against



ANOTHER PLACE, ANOTHER FORM:



have warrant, will travel

Anne
HERE TO HELP



Armstrong
WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Home tel:
Camberley
29653



TENSE TIME: wives with questions needing answers

HOW MOVING PUTS A STOP TO FAMILY LIFE

more than a quarter being accompanied. It was revealed that more than half travelled by private vehicle.

Close on a third answering questions on the actual move told of the poor

communications between the authorities, the Services Booking Centre (SBC) and themselves concerning passports, and pets.

The medical section raised the continuing prob-

lem of transferring medical documents, information on dental treatment, inoculations, and vaccinations.

Money matters, too, were highlighted with difficulties over travel allowances, out-of-pocket expenses, child benefits, banking procedures and unemployment benefits.

It also indicated that nearly half the families involved in a move had someone in full or part-time employment before leaving the UK.

Since a *Women in Europe* report said only 27 per cent of Service wives find work within the EEC, finding another job is a major problem.

Education and social matters were also spotlighted, especially in the transfer of children from one school to another, with 49 per cent having to seek information.

Other issues were raised, but were outside the terms of reference of the study; insufficient notice of posting to give families the chance to complete the sale or let of their private homes being

just one.

This is an important point as is the fact that financial hardship has been created because pay deductions for handover charges have been made before disturbance allowance has been paid (see *SOLDIER* April 7).

These and many other points still need investigation, such as special facilities for handicapped children.

Now the report has been published, but the sponsors, DPS Army, have not fully accepted the recommendations, particularly those which follow, and in turn have put forward their own recommendations. But they have agreed to the publication of the project as a discussion document.

The Army Management recommendations in the report are:

■ DGPS(A), assisted and advised by the Services Booking Centre, should sponsor a general guide which gives information to Army wives on passports, travelling, medical and dental facilities, accom-

panied and unaccompanied baggage, education, dependent children, housing, pay, allowances and insurance, motoring, station guides, import/export of pets and plants, registration and voting, useful addresses and check list.

■ The guide should be presented similar in style to the booklet *Civil Servants on the Move* and distributed by the SBC.

■ When theatre and station guides are being rewritten they should be checked against the general guide to eliminate duplication of information.

■ The structure and content of the guide should seek to reduce the need for amendment and, while focussing on essential and generally needed information, should also indicate where information can be obtained on the less common aspect of moves.

■ A more radical study should be considered of the most effective way of moving families between stations on posting.

They add that the principal benefits would be realised in the area of welfare whereby fewer problems in family moves would arise.



Lt Col David Jenkins, CO of QOH, demonstration planner

LASERS CLOSE THE REALISM GAP



Between demonstration flights Lynx helicopter pilot Stuart Doyle, Lt, at the controls and his air gunner Sgt Al Bower RM keeping their mounted SIMCAT receiver in pristine condition

THE soaring prominence of hi-tech battlefield simulators as a cost-effective training aid has been graphically illustrated at Hohne where 1st British Corps unveiled SIMEX '86, claimed to be the biggest and certainly the slickest British Army demonstration of up-to-the-minute simulation systems to be seen in Europe.

Recognition of the importance to high realism combat training of advanced simulators was evidenced by the fact that SIMEX '86 attracted a host of eminent observers including Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley, a handful of top Whitehall civil servants, many senior executives from Britain's leading defence industries, and 20 British Army generals.

The past decade's rise in the development of weapon simulators, largely sparked off by the introduction of low power lasers combined with computer know-how, has unleashed an unprecedented wave of innovative concepts that have provided military policy makers with an unrivalled opportunity to narrow the gap between the dry training and live firing link and combat itself.

Simulation is a tantalising training solution hard to resist especially in terms of hard cash savings, training time reductions and superior safety margins.

With a Chieftain armour piercing round costing close to £800, training a tank crew on a simulator inevitably slices the cost of the total training schedule as well as guaranteeing operators opportunities to practise target hitting missions before firing the real round.

Time is also money and another favourable factor spearheading the interest in simulators. Producing highly skilled troops costs both. With sophisticated simulators less time is wasted moving to remote range areas, leaving more valuable working time training with the added advantage of instructors getting greater opportunity to spot and resolve teething difficulties.

Safety is another aspect that can be measurably boosted. With ultra-modern weaponry becoming more scientifically complex it also tends to become increasingly vulnerable to damage in the hands of a non-expert, a problem significantly reduced with the familiarisation created by the application of simulators.

To the Army, of course, simulators are not a new phenomenon. Pyrotechnics have been used for years to represent comparatively simple explosive effects, for example. But what the Army has not been able to do until now on a large scale is produce a true-to-life representation in a 'combat

zone', a development which has now arrived with computer technology.

At the opening address to SIMEX '86 in Hohne Station's Globe Cinema the increasing role of simulators in a military environment was put into perspective by Commander 1st British Corps, Lieutenant General Sir Brian Kenny who masterminded the project.

This was followed by an illustrated talk on the application of modern technology to training in the Army, presented by the Director of Army Training, Major General Keith Spacie.

With the theory of simulation and training systems fresh in their minds, the audience was taken by coaches to Hohne Range where they watched a tactical demonstration.

Planned by the Queen's Own Hussars' Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Jenkins, under the direction of 22 Armoured Brigade, the demonstration portrayed a typical Squadron/Company group attack used in British FTXs.

The demonstration was staged in three separate phases with Orange forces initially performing a Squadron/Company group attack on Blue, an action

Pte Paul Hinchliffe from 1 Green Howards, well prepared for battle



Sgt Bryn Lippitt of the Welsh Guards fires out a MILAN anti-tank weapon featuring a TALISSI laser powered simulator

deliberately designed to mirror the current problems faced on FTXs where lack of simulators make realistic umpiring and the teaching of relevant tactical lessons frustratingly difficult.

Part Two extensively displayed a limited range of simulators indicating their incredible capability for establishing realism, with the final stage showing Orange repeating their attack.

But this time with both forces using simulators the glaring comparison was both dramatic and complete. Without simulators low level tactical lessons could be ignored with troops paying little credence that they were either engaged or under fire. There was also no need for aimed shots since casualties were awarded arbitrarily.

In contrast, the battle acted out with simulators could not have been more different. The high degree of realism ensured, for example, that Blue took casualties from careless soldiers not taking cover during the fire plans.

In the 'live' laser battle it was the firepower for once that stopped movement with no mistake knowing who or what had been eliminated.

With the battle over the audience was invited to meet the combat soldiers and see the revolutionary kit that transformed the result. The infantry from 1 Green Howards



were equipped with LAW 80 and SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effect Simulators) while QOH's Chieftains had SIMFICS which incorporates a visual hit indicator device signalled by orange smoke and flashing beacon.

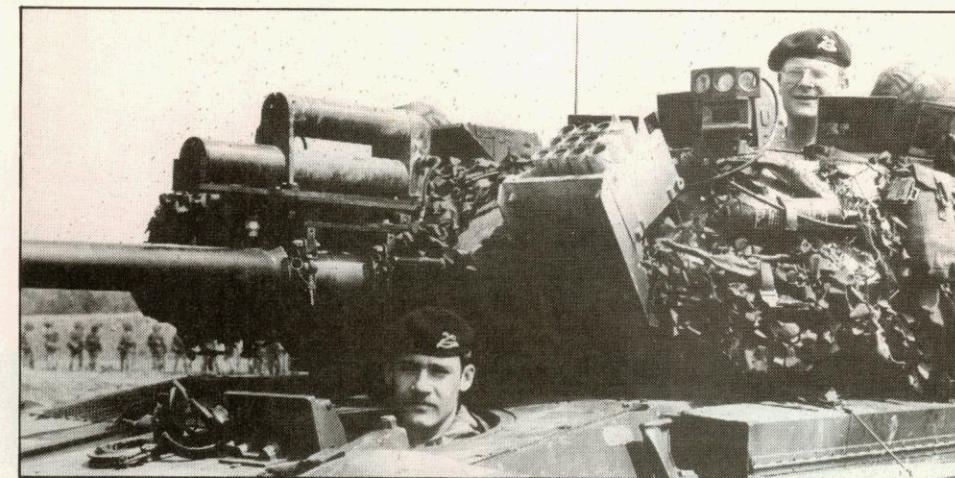
The SAWES package has a muzzle mounted laser projector aligned to the sight with laser detectors attached to harness and helmet. QOH's Scorpions had SIMFIRE 'S' series receivers fitted with comprised retro-reflective blocks mounted around the turret, a control unit and a rotating light indicator with a smoke pot

Lance Cpl Gary Ward of 1 Green Howards put up a creditable performance using LAW 80 with SIMFIRE

that triggered when hit.

But for some of the spectators the network that stole the show was a remote laser controlled exploder system that enabled umpire controllers at the tactical demonstration to activate distant pre-placed pyrotechnic devices.

QOH's recce soldiers Lance Corporal Neale Morgan, vehicle driver, and his commander Staff Sergeant Dave Inglis in their Scorpion fitted with the SIMFIRE 'S' system



Tank Commander Corporal Lawrence Lear of 'B' Sqn, Queen's Own Hussars with his SIMFICS equipped Chieftain





Writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley have been to Berlin, the divided city, to visit The Glosters, who have moved...



FROM WILTSHIRE TO THE WALL

THE 1ST Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment — the "Glorious Glosters" — have been based in Berlin since February and professionally, have been enjoying a change in basic infantry skills while personally enjoying an up-market lifestyle in the divided city.

Housed in Wavell Barracks, the regiment whose most recent world famous battle campaign was Korea,

have been well received by the residents of Spandau in the British Sector.

For more than four years they operated in the conventional infantry role in rural environment, notably Tidworth. The rural has now, by dint of posting decree, given way to the urban.

Personal and professional soldiering among the high-rise buildings and bustling boulevards of an affluent city, divided for 25 years this August by The Wall. A community sitting defiantly as a thriving island — like enclave 102 miles into East Germany. The Glosters will spend two years in this new environment.

A change of scene, indeed. Salisbury Plain swapped for the built-up Spandau district. Tidworth for the famed Tiergarten area. Wiltshire training areas for the stark outline of The Wall.

Apart from its component units' visits to within the Zone or BAOR proper, one of the Glosters' nearest training areas, at rifle company level, is the lush Grönewald, where the fresh air loving Berliners love to take their leisurely and salubrious Spaziergängen or strolls.

Geographically, they are confined to commercial and residential concrete canyons served by inner city metallised arteries as channels of fast moving traffic circulation.

The Glosters are well aware that if conflict reared into military

action it could be a carbon copy of the city's sad milestone of 41 years ago. Defensive operations amid rubble and debris.

Their vehicle equipment, as in the past for predecessor battalions, is geared to the purpose. Like the Army's sole dozen FV 432/30 tracked recon vehicles looked upon with pride by their Recon Platoon operators and said to be the only ones anywhere in the world in urban camouflage. The Americans and French in Berlin do not have such liveried armoured transport.

These unique 19-ton vehicles are topped by a 30 mm Rarden cannon turret. Each of the three resident battalions' recon platoons have four of them; regularly appearing in the streets of Spandau, for example.

Crewed by three, the vehicle's main armament and its 120 rounds are supported by an L.37 7.62 mm GPMG. The crew, meantime, carry 9 mm Sterling sub machine-guns. Not designed to carry a section of soldiers, four can cram into the innards of the FV432/30.

One of the Glosters' recon platoon operators said of the hybrid once trialled by the Army but never accepted into service: "They are brilliant. They would be the only vehicle we have to get around Berlin and its rubble if things happened as they say might."

He added: "We see them as armoured fighting vehicles and not

World unique. One of the Army's sole FV 432/30s trundles down a Spandau street

as APCs. We take them out of camp at every opportunity. We also take them swimming. There is, however, a lot of maintenance to be done on them. Often up to eight hours a day."

The last time the Glosters had such an affinity with tracked vehicles, the venerable FV 342, was in 1974 when the battalion was based in Minden in the mechanised role.

"Now we are having to start from scratch again training young members of the platoon," said a veteran colour sergeant.

"Our FV 432/30s would give protection and great mobility around a debris-ridden environment," he said.

The quartet of tracked FV 432/30s are complemented by an octet of equally long-serving wheeled Fox armoured recon vehicles, these totting the same 30 mm cannon with 96 rounds stowed. The battalion already had experience on the type at Tidworth.

Fighting in Built-Up Areas (FIBUA) is very much in the trainers' minds. That alongside patrolling The Wall — 26 miles of it — and the rotational provision of a guard at Spandau Prison where the 92-year-old Rudolf Hess is living out his days.

The battalion's anti-tank platoon

has equipment old and modern to cope with their urban scenario role. One of them is the continuously praised Wombat, the 120 mm recoilless rifle, said to "make the third largest bang in the world." Also the Milan anti-tank system with MIRA (Milan Infra-Red Adaptor).

No doubt at all. The three-man crews love the Wombat with its 60-pound rounds. The platoon holds six of them, a weapon last used by the Glosters in Münster back in 1979.

Their Wombats, along with those used by two other Berlin-based infantry battalions, are the only ones in use by the Regular Army in Germany. The operators are ever enthusiastic to loose off 1,000 rounds a year — compared with two annually for Milan — on Zone training ranges but mainly at two Wombat concentrations.

Additionally, the platoon holds two extra "fly back" urban orientated, four-rounds-a-minute Wombats for emergency use.

Major Mike Noel-Smith, OC of the platoon said: "We have found so far on exercise that the field of fire of Milan in an urban setting is greatly reduced. Buildings, telegraph poles and so on restrict Milan. Wombat will kill anything. Milan may not stop a target; Wombat will. It's ideal for use here against armoured obstacles and troops in the open."

"It's a gun which you can treat as a gun. You can 'beat' it. But you've got to show it who the boss is. Two-thirds of its power, in fact, blasts backwards 273 metres. It also carries a 12.7 mm spotting rifle. It's a piece of anti-tank tradition I personally would like to keep."

"I have more confidence in Wombat here doing the business than I would have in Milan. You cannot guarantee that with Milan. Wombat is a lovely bit of kit."

The battalion's anti-tank platoon came to Berlin in February as a Milan unit. Partial conversion is well in progress on Wombat, now acknowledged as the platoon's "priority weapon."

The innovative platoon has also set up its own novel Milan simulator. It involves bricks depicting buildings and pulleys, cables, string and Soviet toned-down toy model vehicles. An urban sprawl not dissimilar from Berlin itself. An idea incorporating the use of an FMR (Field Miniature Range).

Its operating procedures sharpen up split-second timing. By day or night. Red spot lights help in the latter coupled with a "smoke machine" — controlled burning, oily rags to develop "obscurity techniques."

The four vehicles emerging

The Glosters and their well-loved and respected 120 mm Wombat anti-tank gun



between the buildings at a five times faster pace than a wood louse were bought cheaply from an East Berlin toy shop.

Elsewhere within the battalion, Major Peter Marks, OC Support Weapons, has been working on detailed plans for a battlegroup trainer similar to those in use at Bovington and Sennelager. One for use by mortars — including "puff range" — and anti-tanks.

Using it, a battle can be fought on terrain in realistic conditions as dictated by a computer. It will also advise on weapon success rate and where fire can be called down.

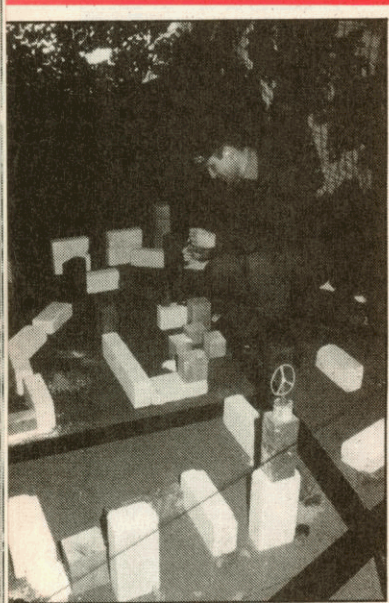
Eventually, the top floor of a building will house a whole range of facilities to help the Support Weapons cell.

All of which augurs well for the Glosters during their transition in tactical attitudes from countrified

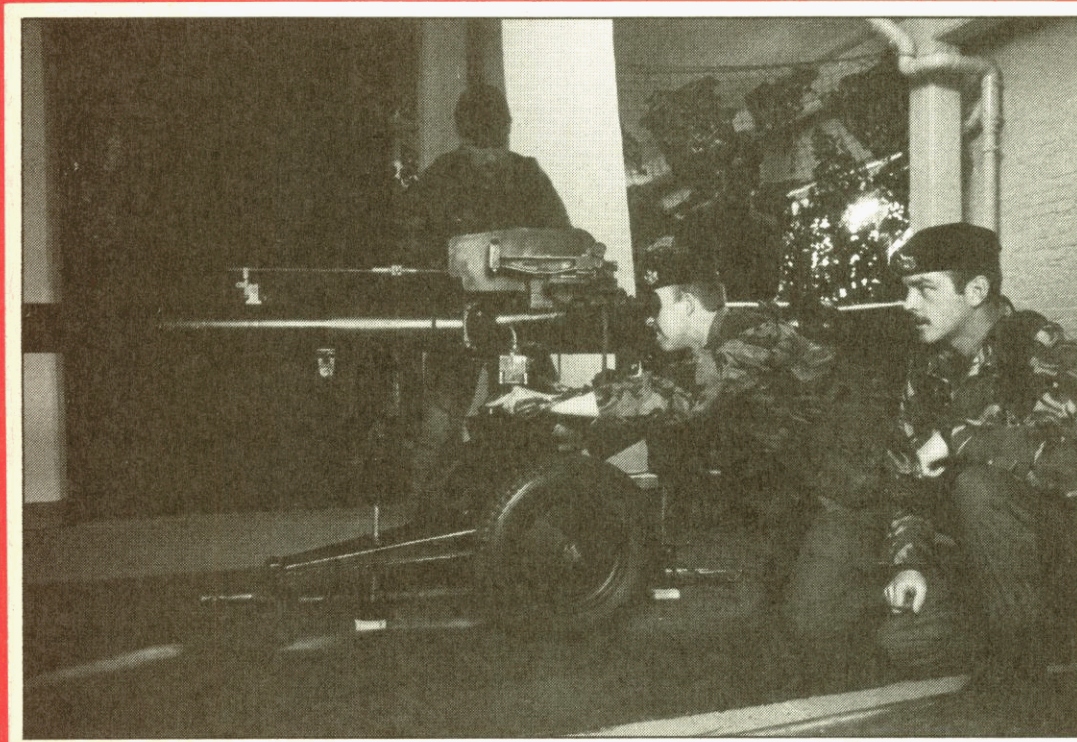
Tidworth to urbanised Berlin. A history-crammed conurbation which, incidentally celebrates its 750th anniversary next year.

Milan in action... indoors. Simulated and saving thousands of pounds in rounds ▲

A far cry from Salisbury Plain ▼



Bricks and burning oily rags. The novel Milan training area with help of a Field Miniature Range and pulleys with tiny model vehicles



DAWN DUST-UP IN THE GRÜNEWALD



THE WOODLAND dawn chorus was in full swing. Unfriendly overnight rain-sodden clouds were grudgingly reluctant in yielding to the inevitable daylight.

In a clearing the naked eye could just make out dark, silent figures with rifles lying motionless in shallow "shell scrapes". They were waiting for something to happen. And happen quickly.

This was the Grünwald, the lungs of Berlin. Scene of some of the divided city's most savage fighting during the final spasms leading up to its liberation from the Nazi jackboot just over 40 years ago. Old men and mere boys

resisting to the last.

Pastoral now and the venue for lovers, film-makers and afternoon "Bummelers" ("strollers") two companies from the newly-resident 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, were about to confound

and confuse the feathered wildlife with a demonstration of tactics.

And just three miles from the world's most famous spy swap Glienicke Bridge to the west and the same distance from the delights of the fashionable Kurfürstendamm or Ku'damm.

"A" Company commanded by Major Steve Oxlade was about to attack and, hopefully, destroy 'C' Company headed by Major Martin Vine.

The scenario called for the

Leader of the "Soldiers of the People" ... Major Martin Vine and megaphone

routing of a bunch of guerillas who had somehow reached a forbidden area. A nasty crowd who had brought their own megaphone wielded by the mouthy leader of the "Soldiers of the People" and a set of un-nerving but adequately played bagpipes.

At 0522, oral insults were at their height bellowed across the clearing towards the concealed attackers who had quietly moved from their FUP (Forming Up Place) and were now at the Start Line. The eerie pre-light bagpipes surged into tune.

Six minutes later the onslaught started. A dozen old tyres were lit to simulate smoking artillery craters. SLRs crackled. GPMGs chattered in supportive staccato. Thunder-flashes arched through the still chill air.

"C" Company resisted strongly and eventually had to fight to the last man in the ten-minute scripted skirmish which left no doubt as to the victors.

The dawn dust-up belying any presence to its proximity to one of Europe's most sophisticated cities was a prelude to a upcoming battalion-sized Zone exercise, Exercise Hungry Bear, involving another Berlin-based battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment). The 'Glorious Glosters' were fielding an enemy force for that test somewhere in BAOR.

The victorious "A" Company and their sister company had been out on exercise in the Grünwald for 48 hours in one of Berlin's arborial beauty spots.

The Hungry Bear preamble was a welcome relief to the Glosters from other duties in West Berlin.

A senior NCO gives his men a debrief after the dawn action



A unit that came to the virtual island city, 102 miles into East Germany, after four-and-a-half years at Tidworth, operating in the traditional infantry dismounted role within 1 Infantry Brigade.

Here they were, more than willingly, thrust into a true European environment. A sharp-end slot some 800 miles from rural Hampshire, their base until last February.

A change of scene for the 600 or more men — from their Tidworth role days. Based now at Spandau, that name long associated with 92-year-old Rudolf Hess, the world's most solitary prisoner, "minded" by the Four Powers in his red-brick fortress.

Back in the Grunewald within a 24-square-kilometre section, "A" Company had been busy before delivering that baptism of exercise play fire upon a patiently lurking "C" Company under their enthusiastic leader, Major Martin Vine, a company commander since last December and a soldier of some 13 years' experience.

Major Oxlade's men had already taken part in an escape-and-evasion exercise, splitting his men into three-member groups. They had contacted a string of "agents" who, in turn, contacted others in a network. They were operating in a 12-square-mile area over a ten-hour period.

A night crossing of the city's Havel River was made. It was

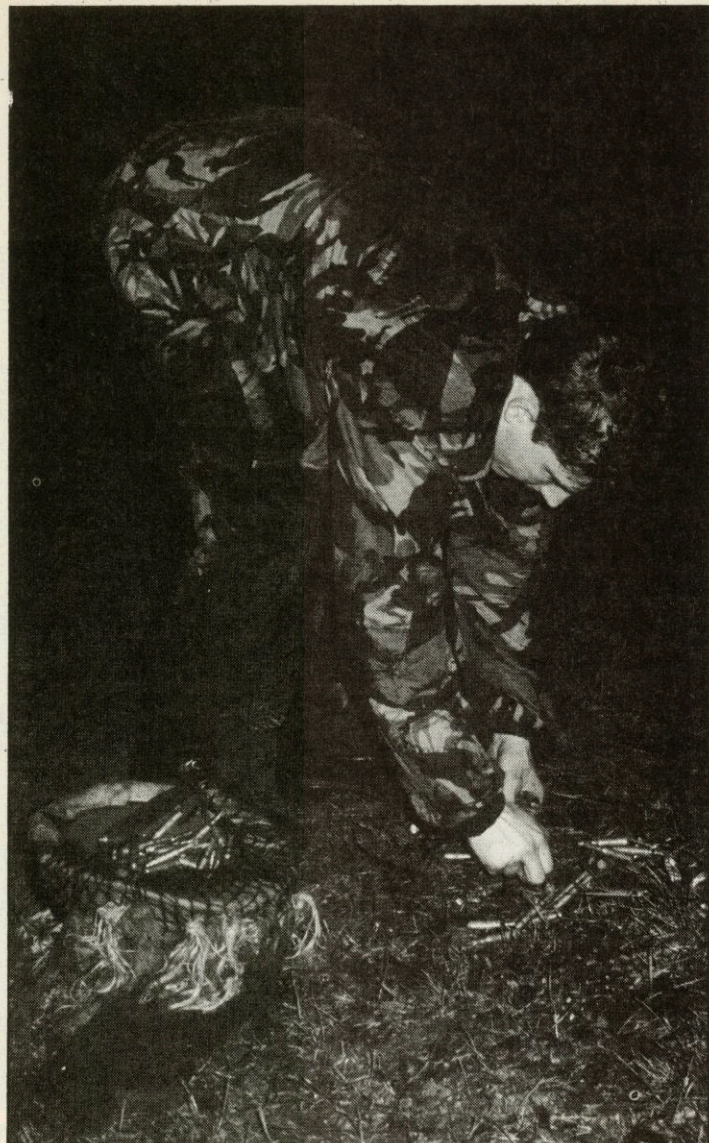
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Fighting men need food. Plenty of it. The "hay boxes" await ▶

Away goes the barbed wire. Ecology ever in mind with the Glosters (below right)

Breakfast and private thoughts in the Grunewald ▼





◀ Taking up a collection. The brass collection. Discarded shell cases



Company commander Major Stephen Oxlade in post-action pensive mood ▲



achieved between 2200-0400 hours.

The exercise was not without essential humour, actual or accidental. Major Vine's alert "C" Company guerilla patrols captured one man three times. Another attacker was taken twice... by the same patrol.

Major Oxlade said later, face smudged with cam cream: "It went very well. We made two minor mistakes in the FUP but we succeeded in taking the guerilla camp created by them in the hope of setting up a helicopter landing site. We could, perhaps, have gone in slower and perhaps we made a bit too much noise. It was the first time I had taken a company out. I expected, too, my map reading to go wrong last night; it didn't.

"We hope we will be able to do this sort of exercise out here in the Grünewald during our Berlin stay every two months or so just to get the men into the swing of things."

The men, meanwhile, looked happy enough. "Shell scrapes" were dutifully filled in, tyres doused and a "brass" collection taken... a sweep, line abreast for empty shell cases.

So, a touch of Salisbury Plain in miniature was in future prospect

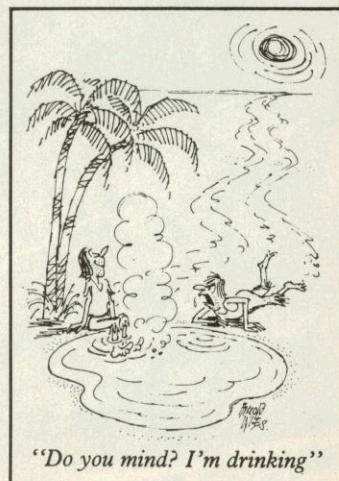
The attack goes in. Thunderflashes. Defenders wait it out in "shell scrapes"

for the Glosters. A setting of lush woodlands with a highrise yet urbane concrete jungle just three miles away.

Major Vine summed up his verdict: "It was jolly good. With the senior NCOs really gripping the blokes. It went excellently and as planned."

Twenty minutes or so later all the players, somewhat weary in the morning drizzle among the tall trees, lined up in front of the breakfast "hay boxes". A voice boomed from a megaphone: "Surrender! You are doomed! Lay down your mess tins....!"

Army humour was, as ever, right on target. As sharp as ever.



Friendship leads to Freedom



HERR HORST DOHM, the Mayor or **Bezirksbürgermeister** of Wilmersdorf, West Berlin, was so impressed with the British Army he awarded two of the city's units the Freedom of his Borough.

They are 29 Signal Regiment (Berlin) and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland

Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment). Both "contact battalions" received the Freedom of the Mayor's 180,000-population, 40-square-kilometre area in a joint ceremony.

Historically for the two regiments it was a military milestone for the annals. Historically, for Berlin it was the first time British troops had marched through the city with bayonets fixed (except for Allied Forces' Day parades) since the end of the war.

The term "contact battalion" signifies those forming particularly close associations with the civic authorities.

Not only is such an honour awarded by a city to a unit for those ties, it is also awarded in recognition of strong links between a unit's civilian staff over a long period. 29 Signal Regiment (Berlin) achieved it for its 250 military and 570 civilians in just 2½ years.

Wilmersdorf has been on the map since 1293. It was there before Berlin became a city. 29 Signal Regiment's last CO, Lieutenant Colonel James Budd (now Chief of Staff with HQ 2 Signals Brigade) and the unit's new CO, Lieutenant Colonel John Munnery (formerly with SHAPE) have respectively sown and will be reaping the rich

Men of 29 Signal Regiment (Berlin) parade through Wilmersdorf during the Freedom honour

ground for a continued special relationship between the mayor's burgers and the signallers, not forgetting the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

In fact, a Bond of Friendship for both "contact battalions" is in the military pipelines.

Speaking of the Freedom honour he conferred, Herr Dohm, 55, said: "I thought about it a great deal. I didn't go into any decision lightly but I felt both units had done so much and put in so much more effort. They had done more than most."

Lt Col Budd, who was double-hatted as Commander Comms, said: "We didn't force the soldiers into Friendship Weekends and similar events. They have all done it willingly. Some 60 per cent of my signallers had already served in Germany at some time in their careers and have a knowledge of German. If you are going to do a job, then do a proper job, I say."

"Until September 1983 when the regiment was formed on a shoestring the Signals had not been involved in anything like this."

"In mid-1984 the regiment joined 1 RRF in a Friendship



Herr Dohm with Freedom document and Lt Col Budd on parade

arrangement with Wilmersdorf. With 1 RRF and often without, we began to forge closer links. We are, if you like, affiliated to Wilmersdorf whereas Sutton in Surrey is twinned with the community."

Wilmersdorf is one of four British areas in the 12-districts city of West Berlin. Herr Dohm said: "Colonel Budd was really the driving force behind the relationship between us and the Army."

"I shall be sorry to see him go but I'm sure his successor, Colonel Munnery, will continue the contact. I have visited 29 Signal Regiment and never quite realised how big its responsibility is."

He was speaking from his office once believed to have been used by 'Monty' in a magnificent

circular building at Fehrbelliner Platz, now the Town Hall. A building taken over by the Wehrmacht and used as an HQ to the German Armed Forces.

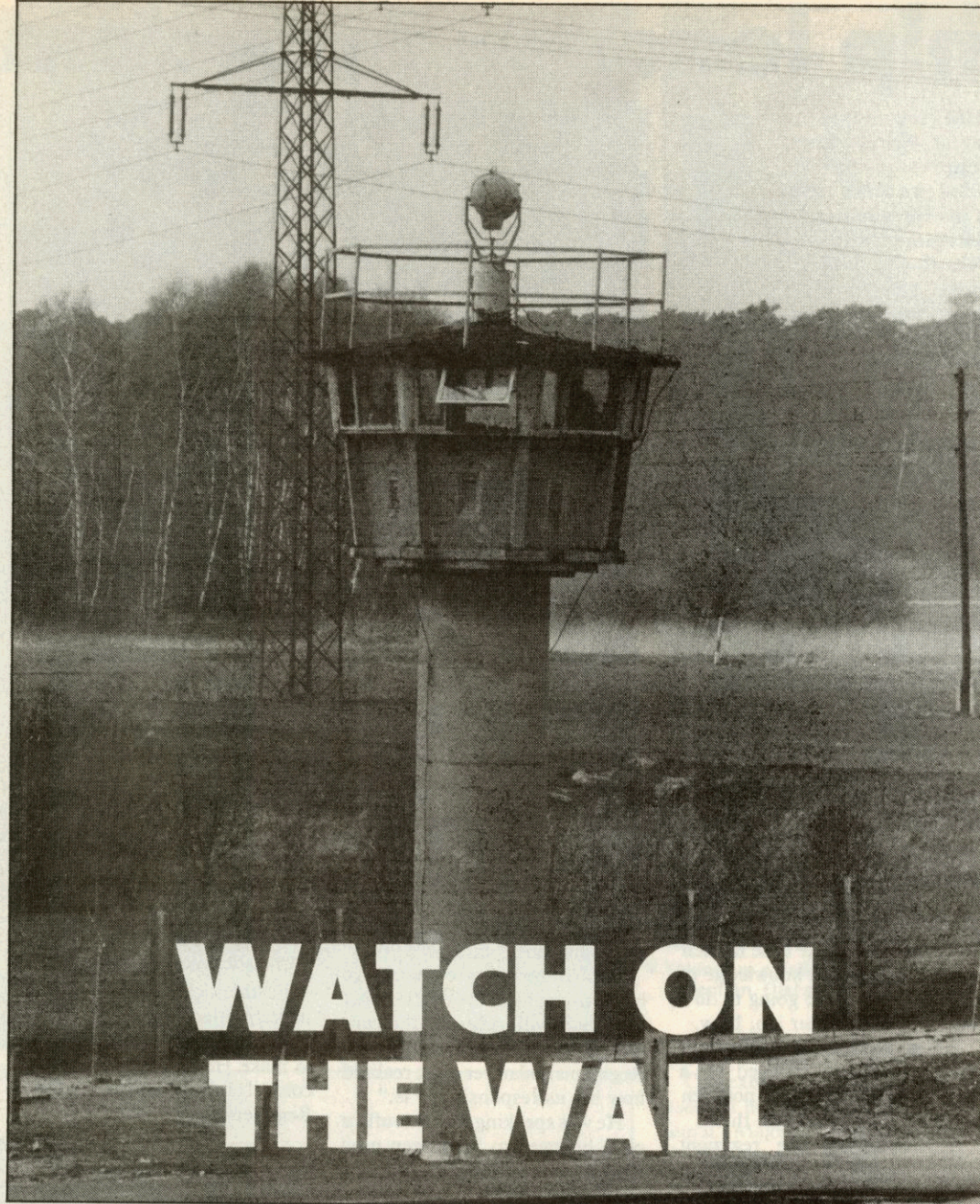
In 1945 it was taken over by the British to become HQ of the Control Commission Germany and named Lancaster House.

From 1951 to 1953 the British Military Government occupied the building. It became the Wilmersdorf Rathaus or town hall in 1953.

Furthering the plans of increased fraternisation between the two units and the mayor, there are plans to make Herr Dohn an honorary colonel of the proposed TA Signal Regiment for Berlin.

"I would be delighted," he beamed.





WATCH ON THE WALL

OVERNIGHT on August 13, 1961, part of today's most famous world landmark of demarcation suddenly appeared threading its way through a once sophisticated then bomb-ravaged city: Berlin. It was The Wall or Die Mauer. Twenty-six miles of it passing through the British Sector.

Over the years The Wall has had many modifications. Four generations of it. But the indelible division still stands. Many men and women have died for it. Trying to flee East Berlin to West Berlin and elsewhere along its extended stark impediment throughout the East/West German border, the Inner German Border (IGB).

Two countries. One language. Two ideologies.

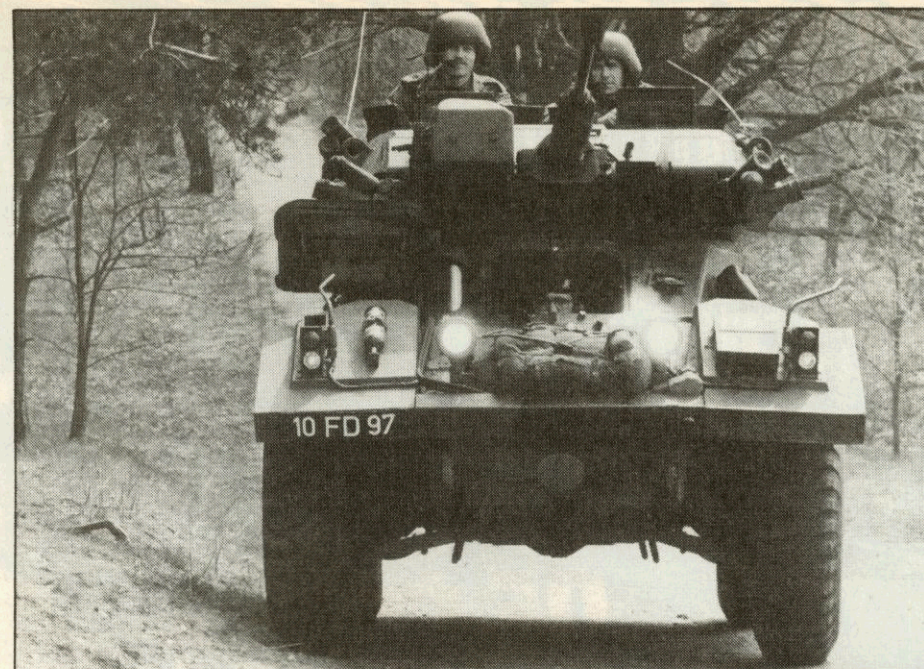
Since the appearance of the emotive deadly urban ribbon of barbed wire and concrete blocks both sides have continued the ensurance of two differing life styles by patrolling the Wall, or the Wire as it is also known.

East German border guards deterring and, if necessary, shooting fugitives. The Allies — British, American and French — patrolling and reporting what they have seen.

A month at a time the rece platoons from the three British Army resident roulement battalions take it in turn to patrol The Wire in a Land Rover and an eight-ton Fox wheeled rece vehicle armed with its 30 mm Rarden cannon.

Their remit: up to six hours'

The Fox pauses to see what is happening across the other side of The Wire ▼



The Fox and its three-man crew from 1 D and D en route, headlights on

daylight patrolling along the 26-mile British Sector. Much of it along beauty spots beloved of the Berliner Bummelers ("strollers") and bikers. A carriageway the width of a vehicle threading its way alongside the 13-foot-high Wall and the mesh fence, The Wire.

By night, the five-man, two-vehicle vigilantes put in three hours. By day and night, the Fox has its headlights on.

Often, the designated route of reconnaissance with its 100 check points and random call-in phone boxes has a corporal crew commander as the patrol leader.

During SOLDIER's short visit, the crew commander was Corporal Gordon Davey from the Support Weapons Recce Platoon of the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Descending the last few rungs of an iron ladder from what looked like a childrens' tree-house, an improvised OP lodged high in a tree overlooking The Wall with an East German watch-tower not far across the "death strip", he said: "We feel we are boosting the confidence of the West Berliners by showing our presence here. It's a sort of flag tour but on this side of the Wall."

There was a subtle difference, he explained, between the words 'Wall' and 'Wire'.

"The Wall divides the city. The Wire divides the country, the German Democratic Republic from the Federal Republic. The Wall patrol is done by the Royal Military Police. The Wire patrol

is done by the infantry."

At one stop, rapid details were noted about a half-dozen conscript East German border guards clustered round one of their GT 601 vehicles, (their Land Rover equivalent) in the afternoon sunlight. They were armed with Soviet AKS rifles.

Then the patrol was on the move again.

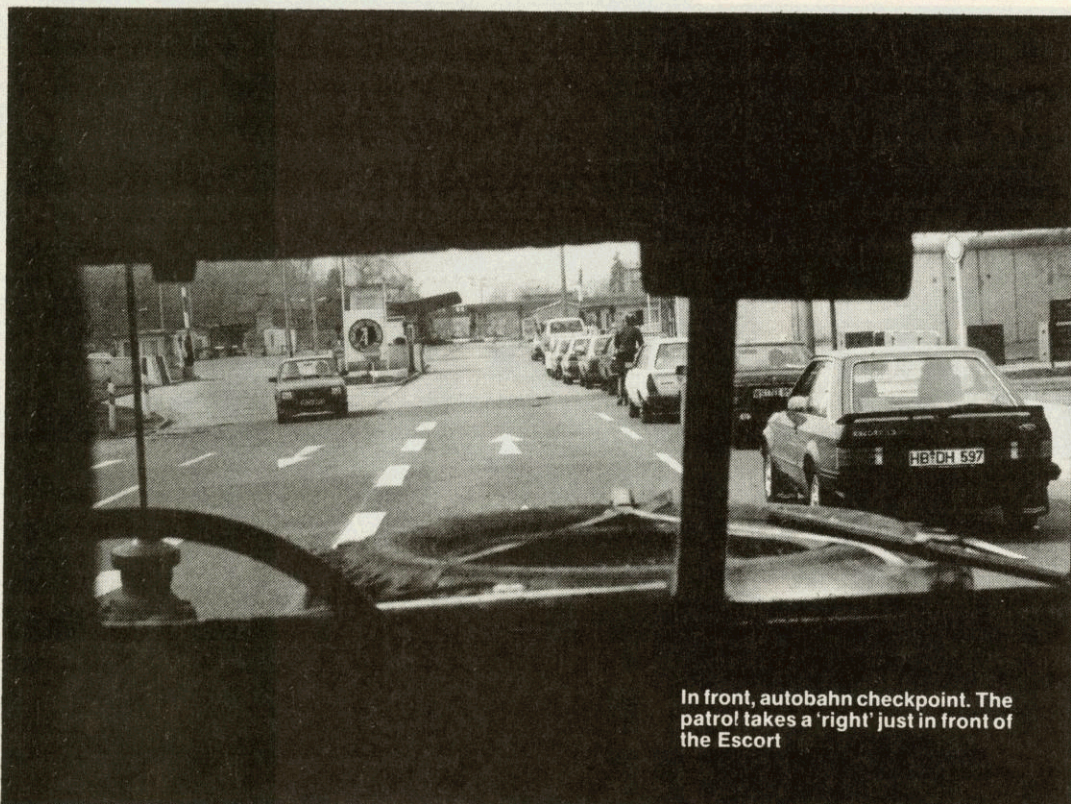
Passing Berliners out on a Sunday afternoon walk. Giggling children scampering amid the trees. Cyclists with tinkling bells. Horse riders on nervous steeds.

All seemingly blasé of the 25-year-old metal and concrete barrier

Not a tree house! An OP and Cpl Gordon Davey, 1 D and D is just leaving it. In front, the Wall and a message of endearment

just yards from their own freedom of movement and speech. Or, perhaps more charitably, inwardly reassured of the British presence alongside the world's third most famous Wall after those of China and Hadrian.

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Paul Haley



In front, autobahn checkpoint. The patrol takes a 'right' just in front of the Escort



Phoning in. Watching through powerful binoculars, an East German border guard in his tower beyond The Wire

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

OF QMGs

SOUNDING BRASS was never more appropriate than at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, when three military bands turned out to let the Army blow its own trumpet about one of its most respected appointments — that of Quartermaster General 'of all our Forces'.

The occasion was the tercentenary of the inception of this top slot in the Army's Logistic Corps hierarchy. The current holder, General Sir Richard Trant, invited all connected with it to a banquet

and Beating of Retreat, to mark the occasion.

All past QMGs, vice-QMGs, directors, and directors-general of the Logistic Corps were invited, and although more than 30 guests were prevented from attending, through illness or business commitments, the final turnout of 67 included all living Quartermasters General except one, along with present incumbents of high office in the Logistic Corps.

The evening sun smiled benignly on this characteristically 'men only' event, as the old soldiers sprang spritely to their plush armchairs beneath a striped canopy overlooking the sportsfield from where they observed the parading bandmen and enjoyed a musical programme.

On parade were three bands of the Logistic Corps: The Band of the Royal Corps of Transport, The Staff Band of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and The Band of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Field guns fired ear-splitting salvoes during the finale, after which Sir Richard Trant, the 55th link in this 300-year-old chain of Army brass, took the salute.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Maxwell was the first British officer to be elevated to the appointment, in 1686. A Jacobite who wisely transferred his loyalties to King James, he also holds the distinction of being the only soldier to have held the appointment who was subsequently killed in action. He fell at the Battle of Marsaglia, in Piedmont, in 1693.

John Willoughby Gordon's appointment as QMG, in 1811, follows a curious entry on his record, noting he had been "nominated to Wellington's staff, but from which he returned, a few weeks after his appointment". He went on to serve as QMG for a further 40 years, which is longer than anyone else.

His successor, James Freeth, a veteran of the Peninsula War with 45 years' service was appointed QMG in 1851 while on the half-pay unattached list. But following the lamented administrative collapse in the Crimea, widespread indignation created the need to find a scapegoat and Freeth was replaced by a

QMGs of recent years watch the spectacle

much younger man, Richard Airey, some four years later.

The 1870s — under Major General Frederick Haines, as QMG — saw dramatic changes in the administration of the Army. Cardwell's War Office Act of 1870 introduced wide-ranging reforms and one significant result of this was that the Commander in Chief and his staff left their traditional offices in the Horse Guards, and established themselves in the War Office.

Charles Ellice replaced Haines, who served only four months in the appointment. Like his two predecessors, Ellice had spent much of his early service in India, and he was the third successive QMG who, earlier in their careers, had all had their horses shot from under them when commanding in the field.

Garnet Worsley held the post from 1880 to 1882. His exploits are legendary: he had seen distinguished service in Burma, the Crimea, the Indian Mutiny, the China Campaign, the Red River Expedition, and the Ashanti War.

He became QMG after bringing the Zulu War to a successful close, and later went on to lead the successful expedition to relieve Gordon at Khartoum to become ultimately Adjutant General and eventually Commander in Chief during the Boer War.

Redvers Buller was the first of three Victoria Cross holders to become QMG. The others were Evelyn Wood a former Naval officer who had transferred into the 13th Light Dragoons and George White who won his VC fighting in the Zulu Wars.

Sapper officers seem to have dominated the appointment in recent years: General Sir Ouvry Roberts, who took over in 1952; General Brownjohn in 1956; General Sir Cecil Sugden in 1958; General Sir Charles Richardson in 1965; General Sir William Jackson who was appointed in 1973.

More recently, Lt Gen Sir Paul Travers, the first Logistic Corps officer to have been QMG, sadly died in office in 1983 and General Trant, a former Gunner, succeeded him.

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BRIAN BOWS OUT IN STYLE

BACK in 1946 15-year-old Brian Wilkinson had no intention of following his father for a life down the Yorkshire pits. He had tried mining and he didn't like it. So he paid half a crown to have his birth certificate altered and joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The forgery was soon detected and the underage private was swiftly discharged as well as being fined £5 for tampering with an official document.

Forty years later, however, Sergeant Brian Wilkinson was standing proudly on a dais at Portsmouth Barracks, Münster while men of 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, together with a contingent from the 570th US Army Artillery Group, passed in review order before him.

This honour was the regiment's way of saying goodbye to one of the last Korean War veterans still serving in the Army. In 1951, after transferring during National Service to Royal Army Service Corps as a regular, he volunteered to go to Korea where he spent 18 months in a forward supply company, at one stage in support of the 'Glorious Glosters' stand on the Imjin River. He also did his share of the task of removing dead and wounded soldiers from the front line.

Sergeant Wilkinson has spent the last 13½ years of his 37-year

Army service with 8 Regiment at Münster in West Germany, which explained the American presence at his farewell parade.

Apart from looking after missiles for 1 (British) Corps, 8 Regiment have the extra duty of providing domestic support for 570 USAAG under a NATO agreement. As stores quartermaster sergeant since 1972 Sergeant Wilkinson has been closely involved in looking after the accommodation and living needs of the American soldiers and their families.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter A Eschrig, CO of 570 USAAG, handed him a unit plaque and a citation which described his dedication and concern for the soldiers' quality of life as truly outstanding.

From the British came a silver model of a Scorpion, Brigadier Colin Carrington, the Commander Transport 1 (BR) Corps, making the presentation. The scorpion is

the 8 Regiment emblem which combines American connections with the regiment's role of a tail with a sting.

Sergeant Wilkinson marched on as a member of 5 Squadron, the only member of the parade not in combat dress. He was wearing service dress with his medals from the Korean War, his BEM and his

Lieutenant Colonel Peter A Eschrig, Commander 570th USAAG in Munster, presents Sergeant Wilkinson with a citation and commemorative plaque on behalf of all ranks of the unit

service medals for Malaya and Aden gleaming proudly on his chest.

He was also wearing a Korean war veteran's medal having made a trip back to Korea three years ago to receive it, and a belt presented to him by the UN security force at the border with their motto on the clasp — In Front of Them All.

At the end RSM David Flynn handed over the parade and Sergeant Wilkinson commanded the march off for the first and last time.

"It was fantastic," he said afterwards. "This is the first time I've been on the dais in all the service I've done in the Army. The regiment's done me proud."

Sergeant Wilkinson will be calling upon some of his Army experience when he heads for a new life as a civilian in Gainsborough Lincs, after finishing resettlement courses back in the UK.

As a one time staff car driver he plans to get himself another uniform and use the large Mercedes he bought in Germany to chauffeur brides to their wedding. He says he will be doing it in German style, with flowers on the bonnet.



EMPLOYERS EAGER FOR ARMY TALENT

For high-tech men who first perfected their electronic skills in the cause of maintaining the nation's defences, are now putting them to good use in 'second-time-around' civilian careers, turning out sophisticated high-speed colour process printing machines.

Crosfield Electronics, a 'blue-chip' facet of the multi-national De La Rue cluster, was just one of a hefty presence of major firms operating out of the south-east of England who were invited to the home of the British Army which provided a welcome on the mat to head-hunters who were representing some of the world's top employers.

was on the menu at 'Living and working in the southern counties', an Army Educational Services 'Expo' which brought together representatives of more than 80 civilian firms and public sector authorities, for a meeting of minds between them and more than 600 retiring soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Deemed 'briefings' in official parlance, they are in effect job-

The plane-makers and the weapons industries offered openings galore, as did the radar and electronics firms who made their bids for the passing talent from stands laid out cheek-by-jowl with those of double-glazing firms and insurance businesses out to recruit salesmen.

In the case of someone having just given their notice to leave the Army that week this would have been the last chance they would have in Aldershot of getting on person-to-person terms while still in uniform with some of the captains of industry and the public

That view was echoed by Mr John Beedell, Crosfield's recruitment and training officer, whose company in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire produces a wide range of equipment for colour scanning, pagination and communications for the Printing Industry.

"We are confident we can find that sort of talent in the Army. Our electronics training department at this very moment is well-dominated with former Army ex-radar based personnel."

part of the Civil Service's bill of fare, and the hi-tech firms such as Marconi, Thorn EMI along with the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment were making sure that the Army's backroom boys didn't slip through their nets.

"We have tried to lay on a service for everyone leaving the Army," said Major Edwards, "from the unqualified Serviceman right the way through to those with good electronic qualifications and on up to those with really high-powered qualifications."

"Soldiers have, in addition, the ability and flexibility to adapt themselves to a host of broadly differing situations, and this is what the firms represented here today appreciate. The degree of reliability, borne of the soldier's mature background, is also something that these firms are in the market for, and which they sometimes experience difficulty in getting from the outside world.

A black and white photograph of a large, crowded exhibition hall. Numerous people, mostly men in suits and some in military uniforms, are walking through the aisles and viewing displays. The displays consist of large panels and posters, some with text like "RAGAU" and "EMI". The hall has a high ceiling and large windows in the background.

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Age..... Due out.....

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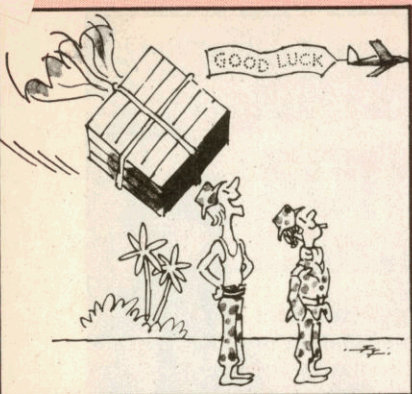
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A black and white photograph showing two young men in military uniforms and berets looking at a display board. A woman in a patterned dress is also looking at the board. The display board features various posters, including one for 'FRIARY MEUX' and another for 'WE'VE ADDED MORE THAN JUST A NAME'. The scene appears to be an exhibition or a presentation of military-related materials.



MAIL DROP

PUTTEES

In **SOLDIER** (February 24) you published a letter from K T Clarke of Henley-on-Thames in which he mentions the two Vs in wearing of puttees.

Way back in 1921, the boys of the Corps of Military Accountants did their early training at the Depot of the Middlesex Regiment at Mill Hill. My recollection is that in learning the history of the regiment, we were taught that the Vs were related to the fact that the Middlesex Regiment was the 55th Foot.

I wonder if any of the CMA boys are still around. The following were among the lads of those days — Lover, Stamp, Keen, Atkinson, Conroy, Glazier, Boreham, Willis, Rimmer, Oliver, White, Whyte, Storey, Mander, James. — **E T Taylor, Lieut Col (Retd), Chessington, Surrey.**

TWO GSMs

We know an ex-soldier of PBI that holds two GSM medals, one of King George VI with clasp 'South East Asia 1945-46' and one Queen Elizabeth II with clasp 'Cyprus.'

The reason he holds two GSMs is that he was called up for military service in 1944 and served in the Far East, was demobbed and put on Z reserve.

After some years he joined the regular Army with a new regimental number. His previous Army number was discontinued.

That is how he got the GSM with clasp 'Cyprus' in 1958 with the new regimental number on it. — **A Kirke-Lamb and D Half (two ex-regular soldiers), c/o Royal British Legion Club, 1 ABC Revelstoke Rd, London, SW18.**

MEDALS, FINALLY

I have followed the correspondence about medals for Dunkirk, etc, some from writers I know quite well, with a great deal of interest. Before you put a stop to the subject perhaps you would allow me to put forward a more positive aspect.

I was an infantryman at Dunkirk and my poor old feet still bear the consequences of the endless kilometres of pave between Waterloo and the beaches. My Dunkirk 'medal' is the badge of the Dunkirk Veterans Association which I wear with pride continually and which demonstrates to all and sundry that I was there. My medals for most of the time are kept safely in a drawer.

The one thing that I treasure beyond all price, apart from the comradeship of the DVA, is the great rapport which we have built up between us and the people of Dunkirk, La Panne and the hinterland. Places which are mere dots

on the map greet us annually (some more frequently) like long lost friends, places like Le Paradis, Esquelbecq, Ledringhem, Bruyelle. These are only a few, visited by me personally; there must be a host of others visited by other branches and regiments.

To me this friendship is worth a chest-full of medals — **George Drake (ex 5th Glosters) 47 Beaufort Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 6JS**

That seems to be an appropriate letter on which to end the correspondence on medals. Thanks to all those who have taken part. — Ed.

TAFFY THE TAILOR

After reading your article about "The Guards Depot Tailors Shop", I would like to say my husband Ernest Evans — Taffy, late Sgt Coldstream Guards — is about the only very old tailor alive now. He joined the Guards Depot Caterham 1940-41 and stayed on as the only civvy tailor at Pirbright until 1969 when the travelling was getting too much.

Colour Sgt J Taylor came from Caterham as Master Stitch; he joined the Depot at Caterham a couple of years before moving to Pirbright. Jim took over from Mick Risebrook who was Depot Master Tailor for years, but now the Oldies have gone to the "great tailors shop above". Pat Culley, Irish Guards; Edgar Miles, Coldstream Guards; Freddie Welsh, Scots Guards; Ben Howe, Welsh Guards.

Of course there were a couple of "young soldiers" who came with us from Caterham. How we miss the good old days.

My husband came from Duke of York's School as a tailor, then joined the Corps of Drums 1st Bn and after Dunkirk went to the tailors shop. He was a drummer for 17 years, tailor for 22 years.

There are many little stories I could tell of the Caterham days. My son, John would go to the tailors' shop every day from the age of two and the "boys" would thread up several needles and give him a piece of cloth and lots of buttons. He would sit on the bench, tailors fashion, sewing them on. Later they would cut them off for the next session. He went to Purley Grammar School and the cross country course ran beside the tailors' shop and the men would go to the windows and shout come on Dulep Singh (as John is dark). He is now a Captain in the RAMC and went to Cyprus this week.

Taffy Evans and Titch Miles were fondly known as Fiddle and Stick and Tweedledum and Tweedledee by officers and staff as they always went to Naafi breaks together.

Owing to ill health Taffy has not attended any functions for a long time so has lost touch. — **Evelyn Evans, 10 Institute Rd, Aldershot, GU12 4DA**

DRAWERS COTTON OD

Recently a most disturbing situation has come to light. Upon exercise during the past week I have been unfortunate enough to be the wearer of the new issue 'Drawers Cold Weather'. What ever happened to 'Drawers Cotton OD'?

I have attempted to obtain the older variation of the under-garment from my regimental clothing store, but to my horror I was told that they are no longer issued.

This is a most disgusting turn of events. Not only were 'Drawers Cotton OD' much warmer than the new underwear, but they also embodied some of the finer traditions of the British Army.

Someone, somewhere, do something to reverse this abominable trend — **Bombardier P Heaven, 22LOC Bty RA, 94 LOC Regt RA, Larkhill, Salisbury.**

NOT FIRST AND ONLY

You should by now be wary of saying anything is a FIRST.

Your statement in **SOLDIER** (April 21) to the effect that the 4th Battalion The Royal Green Jackets is the first and only unit in the British Forces to have been granted the Freedom of the City of Westminster is incorrect.

The Westminster Dragoons, now headquarters (Westminster Dragoons/Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry), have had the Freedom of the City for many years and have exercised the Freedom both on foot and reunited in armoured cars — **J M Smith, 3 The Crescent, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6, 6AA.** Sorry, Mr Smith. **SOLDIER** was acting on 'information received'. — Ed.

NO SHAME

With reference to the letter from A Wortley in **SOLDIER** (May 5) questioning the use of the term 'Private Soldier'.

Historically, a rank was a description of the function of the holder of a particular rank.

For instance, Captain from the French 'Capitaine' means 'the head' of a company. Similarly, Corporal from the Italian 'capodi' means the head of a section.

A 'Private Man' meant a man who was responsible only for himself. Up to the end of the seventeenth century he was usually described as a 'Private Centinel' ie one of a hundred, which was the normal strength of a Company.

The word Soldier is derived from the latin 'Solidus' and means 'one who serves for silver'. In later centuries a Soldier enlisted by taking the 'Queen's Shilling'.

So by simple logic there would appear to be no shame or injustice to call a soldier who serves in the ranks and draws his pay each week — a Private Soldier — **A Bancroft 18 Ennerdale Road, Dewsbury West Yorks WF12 7NF.**

TWO CELEBRATIONS

Reading your report *Rapier Goes East* (**SOLDIER** May 5) which coincided with the 40th anniversary parade of the armed forces of Indonesia, brought back memories of 40 years ago when the British 5th Parachute Bde Group (detached from the 6th Airborne Div still in the UK) paraded for the first anniversary of the Rhine crossing (March 24 1946).

It was a very impressive parade and the first the people of Jura had.

General Dempsey ordered us there

in mid December 1945 and we were greeted with suspicion and returned to Singapore May 1946 as great ambassadors of the UK.

May I quote for the record that the 5th Parachute Bde is the only brigade in the British Army to be in two theatres of the Second World War to celebrate victory: VE Day — side by side with the Russian Army on the Baltic — and outside Bombay for VJ Day — **Frank Swann, ex 12th Bn (Yorkshire) The Parachute Regt, 5 Douglas Road, Cosley, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 8HP.**

PIN UP APPROVED

I was glad to see in **SOLDIER** (May 5) that you have elected to go along with the pro-pin up section of your readership. The photograph on page 27 of Pte Dawn Palmer is my kind of pin-up. Please find more of the same type. — **NED Parkinson (ex-Royal Navy 55-69, also ex-TAVR 70-78), 15 Ridgeway Close, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 4LT.**

SOLDIER's full page colour picture was of Private Dawn Palmer, of 201 General Hospital, Newcastle. — Ed.

Reunions

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association annual memorial service will be held in Ely Cathedral on June 15 at 2.30 pm, followed by reunion in Haywards Theatre. Tea tickets £1 from The Honorary Secretary, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs.

The annual reunion of the Royal Tigers Association, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment will be held at Leicester on June 21/22. Details from The Secretary, RTA, TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. (Tel: Leicester 22749).

The Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association reunion will be held at Northampton on July 5/6. Details from The Secretary, Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton. (Tel: Northampton 35412).

A reunion of past and present members of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance is to be held in Aldershot on July 4 to celebrate the re-introduction of 'Parachute' into the unit title. Further information from Chief Clerk, 23 Para Fd Amb, Rhine Bks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2AX.

Call Signs

Any ex-POWs who were at Stalag 18A Wolfsburg in Austria, at working camps at Oberdorf mine and Hieflau railway camp, and Steinach or Lassac, are asked to contact Mr Frank Burrell, 10 Greenover Road, Brixham, Devon TQ5 9LY.

Mr Eric Morris, 54 Wellspringdale, Stapleford, Notts, NKG9 7EU, wishes to contact members of his wartime unit, REME workshop attached to 133 Light AA RA, especially Bill (Butch) Hay and Jim Smith.

Competition Result

Simon Brown, the son of Sergeant Brown, ACC, 4 ADTR, RCT, at Minden in BAOR, is the winner of **SOLDIER's** £50 prize for HOAY competition No 385. Well done Simon. Why not try again?

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION
389

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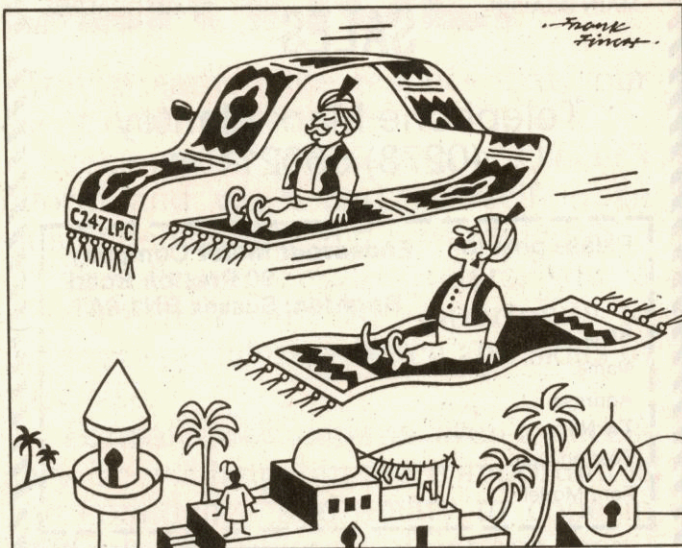
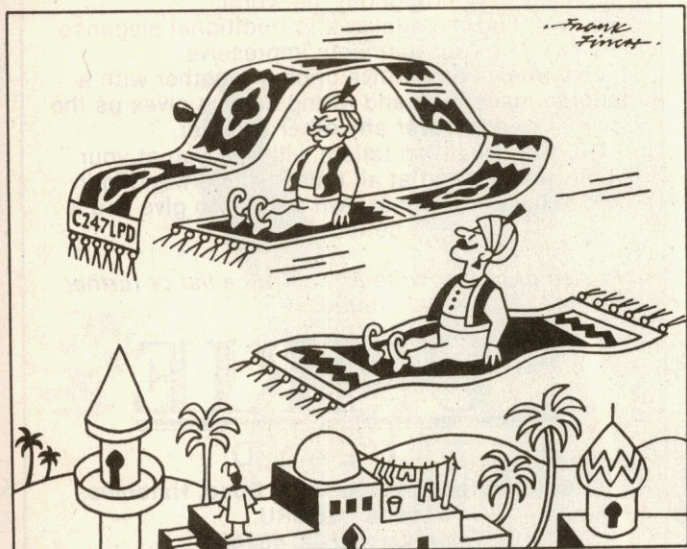
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Answers to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

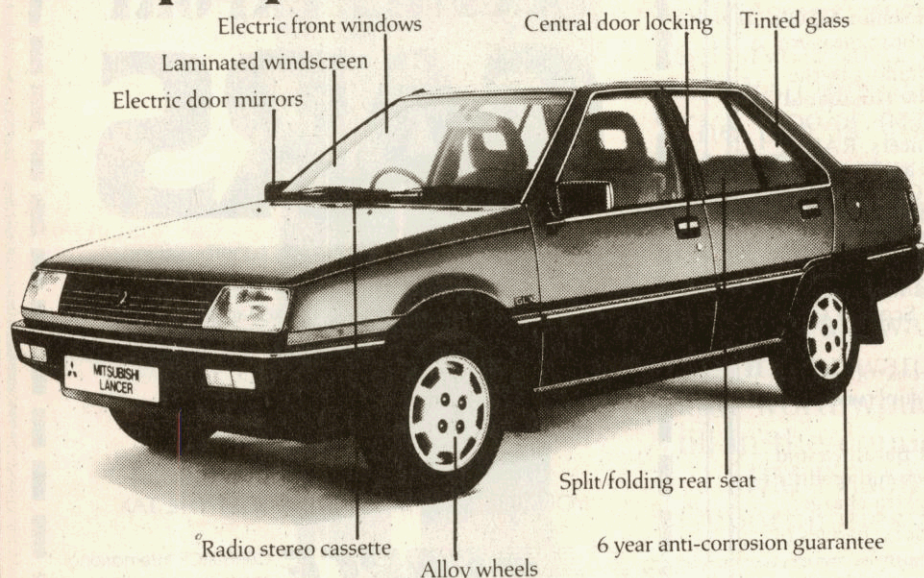
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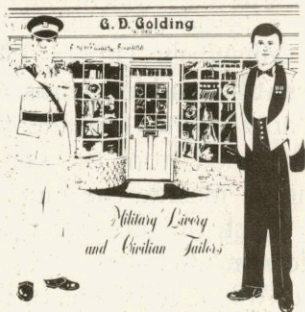
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General

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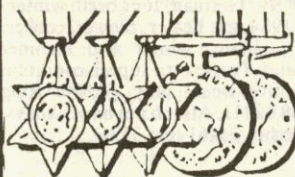
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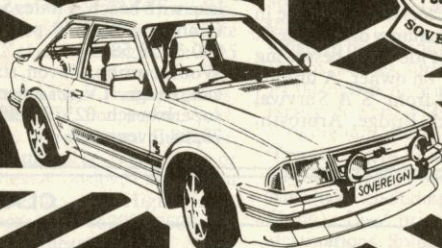


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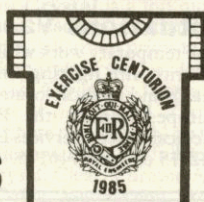
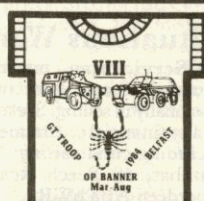
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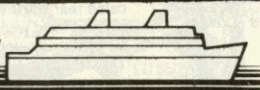
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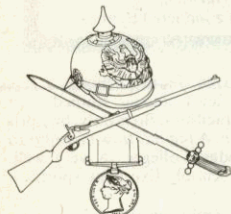
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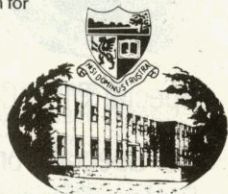
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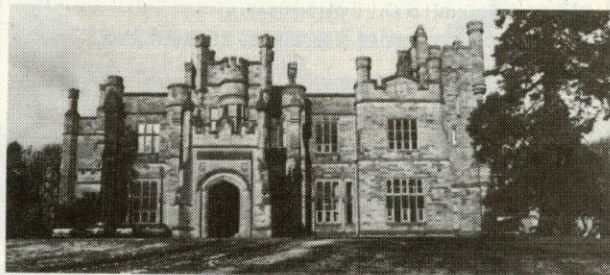
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Danish delight for NATO weekend anglers

NEARLY 140 soldiers, airmen and civilians from the NATO nations took part in blazing sunshine in a two-day team and individual competition for the Grindsted NATO Cup in West Jutland, Denmark.

The competition sponsors, the Danish Tourist Board in Grindsted and the organiser, Mr Nils Larsen, helped by Warrant Officer 2 Bill Rowark and members of 19 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, had organised, prepared and pegged interesting venues for the weekend.

The team event was staged on the River Skjern, a strong flowing 40 metres wide river running for 70 kilometres from its game fishing tributaries the Omme A and Holtum A, westwards to Ringkøbing Fjord on the North Sea coast.

From the 27 teams competing, the Royal Air Force (Germany) team emerged the victors of the five-hour match, with team member John Duncan capturing top weight of 41kg 800g of roach.

Match weights were good, with many bags over 20kg, but on analysis, it showed that bankside management and tactics were more important than pure fishing skills. These were the deciding factors for the successful anglers.

Fishing methods varied from pole to rod to leger, but the higher weights emerged from those trotting a short line with red maggots on two loose fed swims using an Avon or a Pacemaker skilfully held back to control bait presentation in the heavy current.

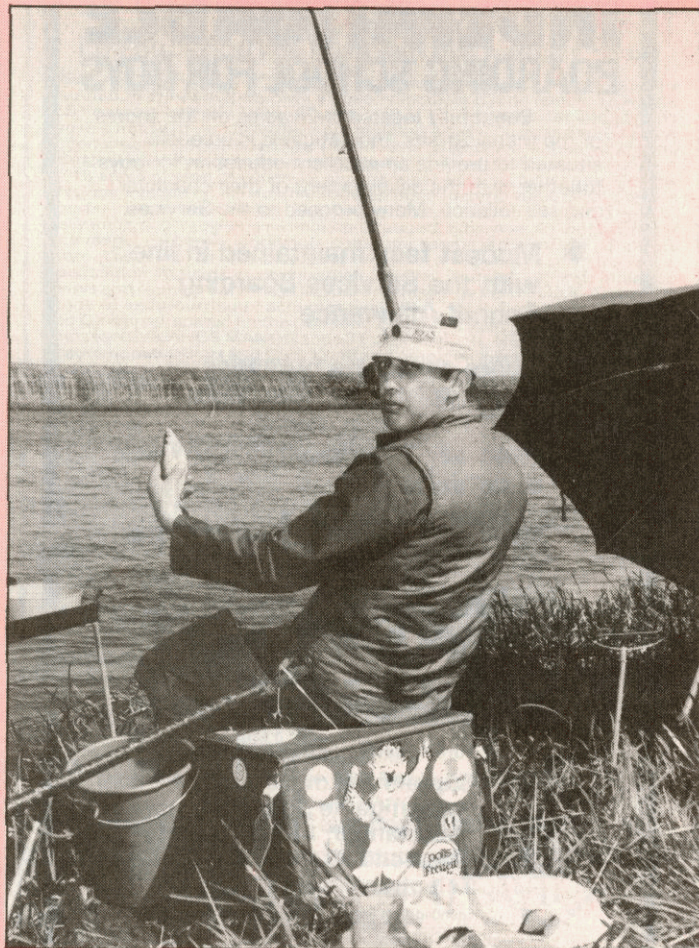
Competitive interest in the 'jewel' of the weekend, the individual, was fired by the goal of a DM1,000 (£300) prize for the largest bream.

Astonishingly, Jim Dunn from RAF Celle and Brian Sutherland from 7 Signal Regiment tied for the prize with identical 'slabs' of

2kg 450g, but due to the outstanding generosity and sense of fair-play shown by the Tourist Board and the organiser each angler was awarded a DM1,000 prize.

This second competition, in difficult conditions, was won by Ron Williams of RAF Wildenrath on a leger with a mixed bag, for a weight of 11kg 600g, with Jim Dunn and Brian Sutherland second and third respectively.

The general area of West Jutland is a fisherman's paradise with cheap day tickets, different and varied conditions and an abundance of fish, both coarse and game to suit a variety of tastes and experience.



◀ Sgt Mick Gardner, Grenadier Guards, patiently looks at his quiver tip after the Skjern had played its usual trick of going off the boil 2½ hours into the match

▲ Cpl Keith Rumsey, 7 Signal Regiment, swings in another small roach while angling in a "fisherman's paradise"

ENGINEERS SHOOT TO SUCCESS

SHARP shooting 35 Engineer Regiment, based in Hameln, are riding on a wave of success. Having won the major units championship at the 4 Armoured Division Skill at Arms Meeting they went on to score impressive results in the Royal Engineers Corps Skill at Arms meeting in England.

The A and B teams were winners and runners-up respectively in the major unit championship, and vied for precedence throughout the competition.

Five of the six major unit trophies were won by the regiment. The A team won the 'kukri' for the best major unit rifle team, the RE Chatham Cup for the best BAOR major unit and the SMG Challenge Cup. All this was on

top of the Coronation Bowl for the champion major unit overall.

The B team won the LMG Bowl and the Chatham Shield for the best major unit section match. The major unit runner-up prize was also a handsome trophy in the shape of The Silver Bowl.

Staff Sgt Jeff Garraway, team coach, was well rewarded for his efforts in training the team. Individually he found success by winning the Aldershot Cup Abroad, awarded for the best aggregate in the rifle matches 2+4.

The regiment's Canadian officer, Lt Mike Gray, also found individual success as the small arms champion officer for which he was awarded the Beagle Puppy Cup.

SEME unlucky but jaded

TWO cracking goals in the opening nine minutes gave RAF Brize Norton the upper hand over SEME Bordon in the Jubilee Inter-Services Cup Winners Cup. It was an advantage they never relaxed and they eventually won by four goals to nil.

They went ahead when a defence-splitting forward header sent Oswald racing clear to slot the ball home.

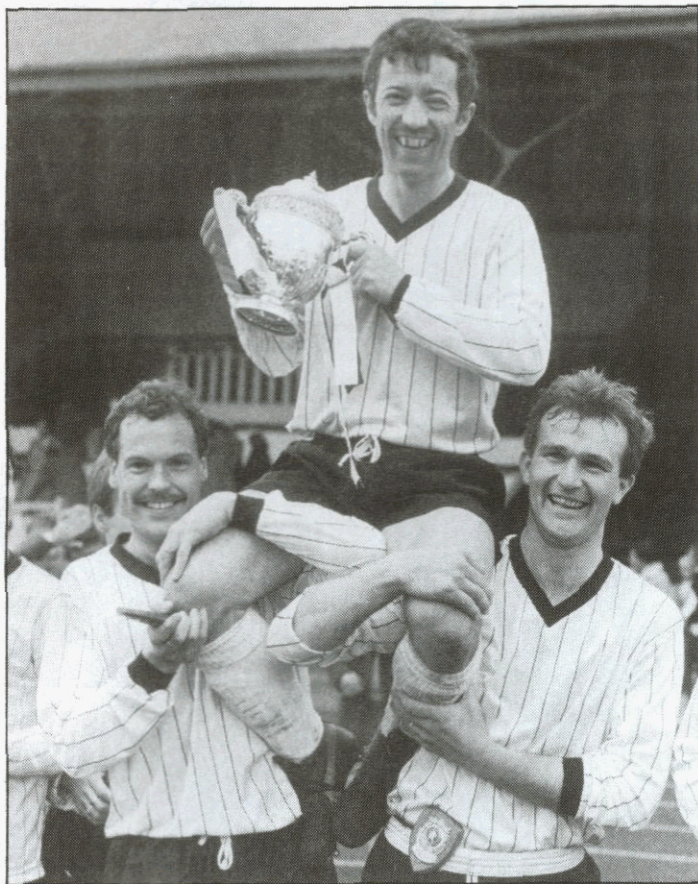
The home side then won a free kick on the edge of the penalty area and Dodds flighted it into the top corner of the net.

SEME mounted a mini-revival midway through the half, but disaster waited just around the corner. Three minutes before the interval, Brize Norton won a corner kick on their left flank, the ball soared over and Blackmore rose to send a powerful header home.

Three goals ahead at the break, and chasing five to give them a level start when they travel to CTCRM for the final tie, Brize Norton seemed content to sit on their lead and soak up any pressure which SEME managed to apply.

In truth, this never amounted to very much and, at times, they looked a thoroughly jaded side merely going through the motions. Brize Norton got a fourth goal, two minutes from time when a long throw-in bounced across the SEME penalty area and Thompson scored.

It could be argued that SEME were unlucky to lose by four goals. What could not be disputed, however, is the fact that the best team won, and comfortably.



We won the cup. D Coy team captain Private Paul Oxley chaired by Privates Kevin Pickard and Peter Bower

SPORTSMAN 'ROBBO' UK BOUND

HONG KONG has said farewell to Staff Sergeant Don Robertson RAOC of the Composite Ordnance Depot Hong Kong. After two years in the Colony Don left for the UK, but he will long be remembered as Hong Kong's Sportsman Extraordinaire.

His greatest successes were on the rugby field in his favoured position of full back.

In the 1984/85 season he captained local club Tigers RFC and led them to victory in two major tournaments — the Blarney-stone Sevens and the Kowloon 10-a-Side Tournament.

He was later selected to represent Hong Kong in the ninth Asian Games Tournament in Japan and was also a trialist for the Hong Kong side in last year's Cathay Pacific International Sevens.

At the end of last season he was awarded his British Forces Hong



Sportsman 'Robbo'; farewell Hong Kong, hello UK

Kong rugby colours and played regularly for the Forces throughout his two years.

'Robbo's' other great contribution during his tour was to Services squash and, when not on rugby duty or representing his unit at soccer, badminton, volleyball or basketball, he regularly turned out for the Forces squash team. In recognition of his services he was awarded his British Forces Hong Kong squash colours.

Velinor Victorious

THE ARMY has its first British Amateur Boxing Association champion for eight years.

He is the light-middleweight Rifleman Tony Velinor of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets based in Celle, Rhine Army.

Velinor earned a unanimous points victory in his Wembley final encounter with fellow Londoner

Steve Butler despite a warning for holding in the second round.

Butler gamely attacked throughout the contest but Velinor boxed in his usual calm way and picked up a steady stream of points. His opponent, unbeaten for three years, was a sorry sight by the end of the contest with a bloody nose.

Velinor, who now looks a cert for the Commonwealth Games, was the only Services' winner.

YORKSHIRE TEAM ARE TA CHAMPS

IT WAS a case of north-east against the north-west when the Territorial Army Association football cup final was decided.

And this year D Coy of Second Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers from North East District made sure of the cup, having lost in the final last year.

Leading two goals to one at half time against the other finalists, 59 Signal Squadron, 33 Signal Regiment (V), they had consolidated their lead to 3-1 by the end.

D Coy from Scarborough appeared to have a slight edge on 59 Signal Sqn from Liverpool — they had competed in last season's cup final although as losing team, and had seven players on the recent TA Representative Teams' BAOR Tour.

There was a big difference in the teams' styles of play with D Coy playing short passing controlled football whereas 59 Sqn played the long ball game.

D Coy opened the scoring after six minutes with centre half Pete Bower playing a defence-splitting pass forward for Brian Eyre to latch onto and crack the ball into the net from close range.

Craig Salt next scored for D Coy when he jumped to meet a right wing cross on the edge of the penalty box and his header flashed into the top corner of the net. No goalkeeper, not even Peter Shilton,

could have stopped it.

59 Sqn then took a grip on the game and were very unlucky to see a D Coy defender desperately scramble off the line what seemed to be a certain goal. Their pressure paid off when they managed to reduce the score line from the penalty spot just on half time.

D Coy started the second half the way they did the first half and it was poor finishing which robbed them of a couple of goals.

Signals then came close to equalising the score but the TA Representative Team goalkeeper Steve Gosling brought off a great one-handed save to knock the ball onto the bar and to safety. D Coy then put the result beyond doubt when Brian Eyre scored a great goal as he headed home a good corner kick taken by Ian Kerr.

DOUBLE MEDALLIST

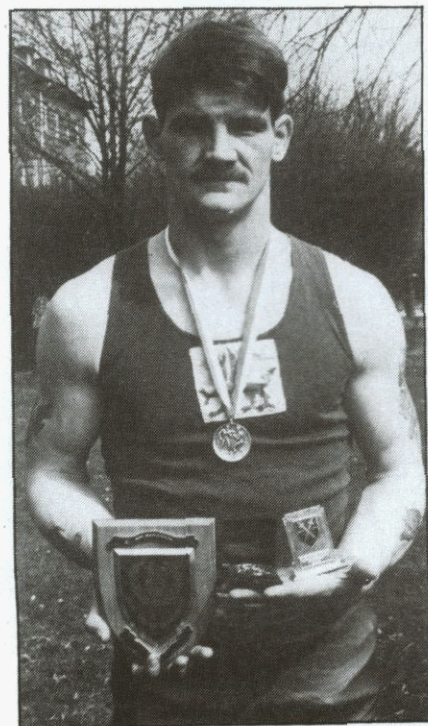
PRIVATE Peter James has a double reason for celebrating.

He has won an Army Rugby Cup winner's medal, and an Army novice's boxing winners medal.

Peter joined the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales in 1980 and has served two tours in Northern Ireland, as well as going on exercise to Canada twice, and is currently stationed with the 1st Battalion in Lemgo, West Germany.

He took up boxing only last year, and has an impressive record with at least three knock-outs to his name.

Peter James; medals for boxing and rugby ►



SOLDIER

